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## *ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

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# **A Resolution**

**NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

## **ADOPTING THE PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN OF 2004 FOR THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

**WHEREAS**, in 1909 the first park Master Plan authorized by George Kessler was adopted by the City of Fort Worth Park Board; and successive Park Master Plans by Hare and Hare were adopted in 1930 and 1957; and

**WHEREAS**, these plans laid the foundation for the park system in Fort Worth and on November 10, 1992 the City Council adopted a Strategic Plan for the Fort Worth Park and Recreation Department to guide the management of Department resources; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 30, 1998, the City Council adopted the 1998 Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan that built upon the planning and stewardship legacy and provided assessments, standards, objectives, priorities, recommendations and actions which recognized opportunities and addressed existing deficiencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the standards incorporated in the 1998 Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan were the first locally determined needs based standards in the history of the Parks and Community Services Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the findings of the 2001 and 2004 Needs Assessment Studies were used to set local standards, prioritize park, recreation and open space needs City-wide and by Park Planning District, and develop an action plan to comply with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's grant guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the plan provides objectives and strategies which will guide the development of the park, recreation and open space system of the City for the next five to ten years; and

**WHEREAS**, the new Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan of 2004 provides a means for a cleaner, more attractive city, promotes safety, and aids in the revitalization of the Central City; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board on May 18, 2004 unanimously endorsed the new Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan of 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Plan Commission endorsed the new Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan on May 26, 2004; and



**CITY OF FORT WORTH**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS THAT:**

1. The standards and classifications included in the Master Plan are officially adopted as the standards and classifications for the City of Fort Worth Park, Recreation, and Open Space System; and
2. The new Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Fort Worth is hereby officially adopted as the guide for allocation of resources for the improvement and continued development of Fort Worth's Park, Recreation, and Open Space System; and
3. The new Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Fort Worth is hereby incorporated as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan; and
4. The adoption of this Master Plan supersedes all previous park, recreation and open space master plans.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of June 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Moncrief, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Yett, City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sylvia Glover, Acting City Secretary



**PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**MAY 2004**

Fort Worth is a city with an excellent quality of life. Partners for Livable Communities, a national non-profit leadership organization has recently named Fort Worth one of America's Most Livable Communities of the decade; testifying to our vitality, growth and excellent quality of life. One of the strengths of our City is the dedication of our citizens to the preservation and enhancement of its natural environment and amenities. This Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan has been an effort guided by the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board, public input, the Fort Worth City Council, City staff and established national standards. The development of this plan reflects on the past, measures the present and charts the activities for the next five to ten years to continue to enhance one of the best park systems in the State of Texas and the nation (National Gold Medal recipient in 1996). Building on the direction established in previous plans (George Kessler's Plan - 1909, Hare and Hare's Master Plans - 1930 and 1957, City of Fort Worth's Sector and Comprehensive Plans, and Strategic Plan - 1998) this master plan continues the rich legacy of parks, identifies areas of improvements and key opportunities and develops strategies to address existing deficiencies.

The plan development process took a systems approach to park planning which included the review of the 1998 Strategic Plan, existing facilities, programs and opportunities. The process included countless hours of public input in various forms, adherence to the City's overall vision for community enhancement, and identification of corresponding goals, objectives and strategies. Since 1998, the City's population has undergone density shifts spurred by increased residential development and redevelopment activities. Annexations of large tracts of land in the north and northwest increased the land area of the corporate city limits and increased residential development in those areas.

To better match the needs and desires of the citizens of Fort Worth regarding parks, recreation and open space, the City was divided into five (previously eight) Park Planning Districts (PPD) derived from the physical character of the City. Major roadways, railways, rivers, creeks and topographic features served as the boundaries for the Park Planning Districts. Alignment with census tracts was established to insure demographic information could be used to develop a profile for each district to develop community-based park and facility standards.

One of the most significant instruments in the development of this Master Plan was the 2004 Needs Assessment Study. The survey effort was conducted by National Service Research (a Fort Worth marketing and research firm) and included 600 telephone surveys with Fort Worth residents and 182 self-administered surveys with Fort Worth youth. The 600 completed telephone surveys represent a margin of error of plus or minus 4.1 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. A total of seventy-five (75) random telephone surveys were conducted in each of the Park Planning Districts. The margin of error for each district is plus or minus 11.5 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.

Major findings of the 2004 Needs Assessment Study included the following:

- Over 64% of all respondents rated the existing park system as good or excellent.
- A total of 75% of all respondents indicated some level of usage of existing facilities either in the past or at present.
- City-wide, the most frequently used facilities were 1) playground equipment, 2) hike/bike/walk trails, 3) fields for organized sports, 4) practice fields and 5) outdoor basketball courts.
- A total of 56% of park users believed adequate maintenance was being performed on existing facilities.
- A need for more visible security in the parks was identified by 66% of all.
- Development of more smaller parks used by neighborhood residents was desired by 62% of all park users as opposed to 28% believing few larger parks used by all City residents should be developed.

Standards were established on a local basis for various amenities and facilities. This means that the service standard is a "needs based, facilities driven, and land measured" means of identifying deficiencies and opportunities in the park system. This process allowed for the development of specific criteria that could both generate explicit recommendations and provide a statistical basis for determining the priorities of the plan recommendations. These facility to population ratios identified items that should be addressed over the next five to ten years. The following outlines the most needed items to meet the established local standards:

<u>Recreation Facilities</u>	<u>Need City-wide</u>
Playgrounds	28 units
Competition Soccer Fields	26 fields
Tennis Courts	11 courts
Basketball Courts	6 courts
Hike/Bike/Walk Trails	4 miles

Combining responses of the 2004 Needs Assessment Study, the facility inventory, level of service measurements, an analysis of available resources, public input and established standards, a menu of priorities has been developed to meet the individual needs and desires for each Park Planning District. Utilizing information from park users, non-users, youth and the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board, priorities for each Park Planning District was set as high, medium or low. Future development and renovations should target these priorities to insure the community based needs are being addressed.

From these priorities, an action plan was developed for the entire park system. Funding for these improvements or actions will need to come from various sources. The primary source will be the recently voter approved 2004 Capital Improvement Program. Other opportunities could be grants, donations, partnership efforts and annual appropriations.

While there are variations from one district to the other, the City-wide priorities are as follows:

- High -        Playground Replacement  
                 Park Road/Parking Lot Replacement
- Medium -     New Community Centers  
                 Replace Deteriorated Ballfield Lighting  
                 Trail Bridges or Structural Renovation  
                 Park Erosion and Drainage Control
- Low -         Walk and Trail Replacement  
                 Renovation of Existing Facilities  
                 Improvements to Service/Support Facilities

In summary, this Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan will act as a guide for allocation of resources for the next five to ten years as identified by the citizens of Fort Worth, the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board, the Fort Worth City Council and City staff.



## **Section I: Introduction**

Fort Worth is a diverse and dynamic city which serves as the cultural hub of the western portion of the Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex. The Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department has 228 parks to service the needs of a population of over 577,500 (*North Central Texas Council of Governments estimate of Fort Worth population issued April 2003*) and millions of visitors. It is necessary to develop a comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to effectively and efficiently plan and manage resources. The planning process provides an opportunity to expand the level of community input toward park planning and management issues. This planning effort evaluates existing facilities and programs to ensure that the department is meeting the needs and desires of the citizens. In addition, the plan identifies opportunities to increase awareness of the programs and services provided by the Department.

As the Parks and Community Services Department seeks to find more outside funding for capital improvements, renovations, operations and maintenance, it is imperative that a comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan be in place which establishes the City's priorities for the distribution of limited resources. In order to effectively plan our future system of parks and open spaces, it is necessary to examine the planning and development history of the parks system. This brief history and an examination of current local, regional, national and global trends will serve as the basis for a continued evolution of a vision for Fort Worth parks, open spaces and recreation areas.

### **A Brief History of Fort Worth Park Development**

Cotton, numerous cattle drives and the eventual arrival of the railway in 1876 served as the economic engines that drove Fort Worth's early growth. During this time, the streetcar and railroad systems were primary determinants in the acquisition and development of parks. Parks were used as anchors at the ends of transit lines to insure ridership of the transit system. This becomes much more evident in the parkway plans prepared by George E. Kessler (a prominent landscape architect credited with the early park planning and design in many mid-western and western cities) and the park development that follows his planning efforts.

*"The general experience in American cities, all of which are actively engaged in this work, make it superfluous to submit any argument to show the need for establishing public recreation grounds. They have all found such improvements in all its elements absolutely necessary to the life and growth of their communities, and in no measure a luxury."* George E. Kessler, September 15, 1909, in the description of Fort Worth's first Park Plan.

The intent and spirit of Kessler's original Park Plan for the City of Fort Worth has served as the basis for the implementation of major park facilities that now serve as the core of Fort Worth's park, recreation and open space system. Kessler's initial vision for Fort Worth parks was an integrated system of parks based on the natural drainage ways of the City's rivers, and a system

of parkways or boulevards tying together the park system, the residential sections and the business district.

Kessler was closely associated with the firm of Hare and Hare, landscape architects of Kansas City, Missouri who later assumed many of Kessler's city and park planning clients, providing advise to the Parks Board and beginning a study of the Fort Worth park system in 1925. That study and consultation resulted in the 1930 plan called A Comprehensive Parks System for Fort Worth, Texas.

The 1930 park system plan by Hare and Hare addressed continued population growth and the completion of bond improvements. The plan was needed to address the growth which had occurred up to the 1920s and guided the development of park facilities through the Great Depression, the Second World War and the Baby Boom growth period of the early and mid 1950s.

The early 1970s and 1980s marked periods of rapid growth in Fort Worth and the surrounding Metroplex. Park and recreation facilities were added to the park inventory during this period of intense development and a great deal of work was done to implement a fair and equitable Parkland Dedication Policy. Over the last decade, City leaders in government and the private sector recognized the problems of relying on a defense and resource-based economy and have sought to diversify the economy. This effort to diversify is now causing substantial growth in both the economy and the population of the City.

Throughout the history of the development of the park system in Fort Worth, the Department effectively anticipated and responded to the park, recreation and open space needs of the community. The important historic legacy provided by planning initiatives of the first park board, many City Councils, George Kessler, the firm of Hare and Hare, citizens, foundations, and public service associations have not been lost. The community acting together anticipated or responded to rapidly developing trends to ensure that the park system evolved to the award winning level that exists today.

Many parks and facilities in the current system owe their existence to the generosity of individual citizens, citizen groups and foundations. Foundations such as the Amon G. Carter Foundation, the Anne Burnett and Charles Tandy Foundation, the Sid W. Richardson Foundation, and the Communities Foundation of Texas have made significant contributions of time, land, and money to the evolution of the city and the park system. Citizen groups such as Streams and Valleys, Inc., the Fort Worth Zoological Association, the Fort Worth Botanical Society, the Fort Worth Garden Club, the Texas Garden Clubs Association, the Junior League of Fort Worth, and many neighborhood associations have also made significant contributions. Without the generosity of these groups, such important facilities as the Water Gardens, Burnett Park, Heritage Park, the Botanic Garden, Gateway Park and the Fort Worth Zoo would not exist. Private giving has been a tradition of the citizens of the City of Fort Worth since the Jennings donation of Hyde Park circa 1873.



This brief history merely scratches the surface of a rich and intricate park history that exists in the records and recollections of the Parks and Community Services Department. For additional information on the history of Fort Worth park development, refer to the *1998 Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

## **Trends**

The Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex is known for its role as a center for transportation and distribution with high-tech industries of the future, a concentration of service and financial industries and headquarters for international and national companies. In order to provide guidance and assistance to the path finding leadership of the community and to build on this vision and legacy, the Department must monitor global, regional and local trends that are shaping our world and our community.

All areas of society are experiencing dramatic changes that will continue to demand departmental responses that are sensitive and appropriate. In addition to providing responses it is also imperative that the Parks and Community Services Department anticipate the future needs of the community. Monitoring environmental, social, economic, demographic and urban trends helps the Department anticipate the needs of the public. Included below is a listing of trends that will impact the future development and management of Fort Worth's parks, recreation and open spaces.

## **Environmental Trends**

How the City chooses to grow will impact the surrounding environment in terms of sustainability. In recent years, a new approach to environmental planning has emerged. Sustainable development (development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs) promotes development with limited environmental impacts. As population increases and land availability and resources decrease, it becomes ever more important to consider the long-term ramifications of growth, the needs of citizens, protecting and enhancing environmental quality.

- Protecting Diminishing Natural Watersheds - As the City grows, significant open spaces, wildlife habitat, original landscapes, wetlands, natural drainage areas, urban forest and remnant landscapes are in need of conservation and protection.
- Providing Environmental Clean-Up - Watershed Management Projects with other City departments, Tarrant Regional Water District and Streams and Valleys, Inc. to manage and conserve the floodplain and drainage corridors.
- Reducing Pollution and Waste - Management plans and practices such as those which reduce the number of vehicle trips each day to reduce ozone and pollution emissions and encouraging recycling contribute to a cleaner, healthier city.
- Adoption of more Environmentally Sensitive Lifestyles - Low impact, non-consumptive uses such as walking and bicycling and aesthetic appreciation of parks and natural areas are becoming more prevalent uses.

- Sound Environmental Management - Practices are being employed to reduce and modify the use of pesticides and herbicides.
- Maintaining and Reclaiming Natural Areas - Management techniques such as those employed at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge that have unique natural and aesthetic value.
- Maintaining Water Quality - Natural drainage ways and wetlands that pose challenges for the Parks and Community Services Department and other City departments and agencies will require increased vigilance in our efforts to protect floodplains and watersheds and maintain high water quality levels.
- State Land Planning Requirements - The state and other levels of government require detailed plans that effectively respond to growth and growth management. This master plan and the City-wide planning effort are in part a response to this trend.
- Natural Disasters - Floods, storms, and fires are infrequent but regular events that strain the resources of the City and the Department in our efforts to meet the immediate needs of our citizens. The City's response to these events is coordinated through the Emergency Response Team and an effective Emergency Action Plan. Many of the resources of the Parks and Community Services Department contribute to the City's rapid response to these emergency situations.
- Green Space Benefits - Encourage the preservation of mature trees and plant additional trees to help improve air quality, mitigate the urban heat island effect and improve streetscape aesthetics.

Communities are recognizing the environmental and public health benefits of trees, as well as the economic benefits of tree-lined streets and parks. Through effective planning and management of the urban forest, trees will continue to greatly enhance the quality of life in Fort Worth for future generations.

In 1999, Streams and Valleys, Inc. completed an update to the Trinity River Master Plan called the *Tilley Plan* that addressed the river corridor from Trinity Park to Gateway Park. A far-sighted update of this plan, The *Trinity River Vision Master Plan* was completed and adopted in 2003. It has an enlarged scope that encompasses a combined eighty-eight miles of river and creek corridor. The Plan identifies opportunities for conservation, linkages and open space. The primary objectives of the Plan include identifying and improving adjoining land uses, enhancing environmental quality and flood control.

## **Social Trends**

Once dependent on agriculture, oil and defense, Fort Worth is developing into a major center for industry, technology, distribution and transportation. The changing economy provides Fort Worth with several challenges and many opportunities. In 2002, the Fort Worth unemployment rate was 8.1%, a departure from the trend seen in the late 1990s of rates being below 5.0%. Nationwide, the unemployment rate was 5.8%; Fort Worth ranked fourth among six major cities in Texas. Fort Worth's 2002 unemployment rate is the result of the recent economic slowdown, especially in the telecommunications and travel industries reinforcing the importance

of human services to the health of every community. Providing vital human services is an important component of the City's vision of a future with strong neighborhoods, a sound economy, and safe community.

- Underemployment Created by Downsizing - Providing community services to those affected by the downsizing of the aviation, and related satellite industries, poses a challenge in an ever-changing economy. Families affected by downsizing have increased the demands on the resources administered by the Community Services Division of the Department. Programs such as the Emergency Homeless Assistance, Comprehensive Energy Assistance, Summer Food Program, and Rental Assistance are in place to address the growing issue of community poverty.
- Youth at Risk - The Department implements youth-at-risk programs designed to help curb increased levels of crime, violence and vandalism, especially juvenile violence. These programs include the recent Comin' Up Gang Intervention Program as well as other gang deterrent efforts. The Department is instrumental in helping clean up the impacts of vandalism through the Graffiti Abatement Program.
- Adopt-A-Park - The Department facilitates opportunities for building community empowerment with programs like the Adopt a Park Program. This program provides a way for neighborhood residents to adopt their local park and medians and contribute volunteer resources to improve and maintain those facilities.
- Citizen Participation - Involvement of stakeholders from neighborhood associations, the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board, community service organizations and interested citizens in the park planning process provides for vital citizen links in planning the future of the community.
- Social Service Networking - Working with county and state agencies, "one-stop" services have been established in communities at locations served by public transportation to maximize service delivery.
- Safe Community - Consideration of increasing concerns for personal and family safety are fundamental in our efforts to provide a safe community.
- Wellness - Increasing importance of wellness activities to all citizens will increase demands for facilities and programs offered by the Department.
- Diversity - Preserving and maintaining cultural heritages are at the forefront of many Department activities.
- Volunteerism - In recent years there has been an increased awareness of giving back to one's community. Many groups and programs exist which take advantage of these human resources.

City parks also produce important social and community development benefits. They make inner-city neighborhoods more livable; they offer recreational opportunities for at-risk youth and low-income residents; and they provide places in low-income neighborhoods where people can feel a sense of community. Access to public parks and recreational facilities has been strongly linked to reductions in crime and in particular to reduced juvenile delinquency. In Fort Worth, crime dropped twenty-eight percent within a one-mile radius of community centers where

midnight basketball was offered. In the areas around five other Fort Worth community centers where the programs were not offered, crime rose an average of thirty-nine percent during the same period.

## **Economic Trends**

As in past years, the Fort Worth economy is influenced by international, national, state, regional, and local factors. For example, the September 2001 terrorist attacks exacerbated existing economic downturns in practically every industry sector nationwide, with the travel industry perhaps being the most impacted.

As a major center for the travel industry, Fort Worth experienced diminished economic activity and substantial employment lay-offs. The result is an economy that is today diversified in many industry sectors such as services, trade, manufacturing, transportation, communication and construction. The changing economy provides Fort Worth with several challenges, many opportunities and a firm foundation for growth in future years.

- Increasing public costs associated with providing a wide range of facilities, programs and services.
- Increasing labor and energy costs will cause the Department to continue to examine even better and more efficient ways of management and operation.
- Tax Limitations - Measures which cause a reduction or cap in tax revenue traditionally used to support public programs and facilities will force the Department to become even more efficient in the delivery of services than it has become in recent years.
- Leisure services provided by both public and private sectors and sometimes in partnerships.
- Financial Collaborations - As many partnerships as possible should be formed with Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) to share costs and realize common goals and visions such as the previous partnerships that have been forged with Streams and Valleys, Inc., the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Youth Sports Council and the Fort Worth Zoological Association.
- Eco-tourism - The growing importance of eco-tourism or nature based tourism and travel to facilities of unique environmental importance such as the Fort Worth Nature Center are attracting much higher use levels as this type of value added natural experience becomes more popular. Higher use levels means that additional pressures will be placed on these resources.

The Trinity River corridor and its tributaries are important resources and provide a natural means of linking the City's recreation sites and open space, as well as linking neighborhoods to centers of activity. The river and its tributaries are also an important economic asset to Fort Worth. RadioShack Corporation and Pier 1 Imports have begun construction on multi-million dollar headquarters along the downtown segment of the river, and plans are underway for mixed-use development near downtown. Promoting sensitive and compatible development along the riverfront is essential to preserving the Trinity River as Fort Worth's greatest natural asset. Preserving the floodplain as open space allows for natural filtration of surface runoff

before it reaches waterways, and also protects structures from flooding.

The City of Fort Worth is committed to revitalizing its central city, the area consisting of low income neighborhoods within Loop 820, through a comprehensive and coordinated strategy that includes economic development, housing, historic preservation, infrastructure, parks, cultural programs, human services and safety initiatives. The City's principal strategies for central city revitalization are to: develop pedestrian-oriented mixed-use growth centers; revitalize distressed commercial corridors by developing mixed-use urban villages along those corridors; and develop a light-rail transit system to connect the growth centers and urban villages along commercial corridors.

### **Demographic Trends**

According to the 2000 Census, Hispanics made up 30% of Fort Worth's total population. This ethnic group is the fastest growing sector of the population in Fort Worth and Texas. Races categorized as "other," primarily Asian and Pacific Islander, are also gaining in percentages, while White and Black races are declining in share. Currently, minorities collectively make up the majority of the City's population. By the year 2023, Hispanics are likely to make up 35% of Fort Worth's population if current trends continue.

- **Aging Society** - The 2000 Census reported a median age of 30.9 years in Fort Worth, 32.0 years for the State of Texas, and 35.3 years for the United States. In addition to the population bulge in the "Baby Boomer" generation the boomers are expected to live longer than any previous generation; thereby increasing the demand on social and senior services.
- **Community Needs Assessment** - The existence of fewer "traditional" family situations requires a greater effort to understand the needs of the many different and diverse family situations that will allow the department to provide an equal level of service to all citizen families. The needs assessment process identifies these unique needs and allows the Department to plan for them.
- **Cultural Diversity** - Increasing desires of the citizens for their community to express levels of cultural diversity through the actions undertaken or supported by the City. Parks and Community Services is ever cognizant of this desire and many events and functions such as Mayfest, Concerts in the Garden, Cinco de Mayo, Juneteenth, and the Como Fourth of July Parade are supported by the Department. In addition, the citizens want to see cultural diversity represented in the people who serve them. Parks and Community Services have made significant strides in assembling a work force that closely resembles the cultural diversity of the City.
- **Successful Urban Design** - Increased population density caused by changing housing patterns that are the result of smaller household sizes, and increased housing costs. This trend towards more high-density multi-family residential areas in the City is recognized in the *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy* (as revised, 2004).
- **Year-round school initiatives** shifts the traditional school year and places intersession times at varying times in the year. This presents new challenges for staffing and programming activities for the City's youth.

The total population of Fort Worth will continue to grow each year. In 2004, the City's estimated population was 577,500 with a projected 2023 population of 710,000. Increased population will place additional demands on existing community facilities and infrastructure, and will result in the need for additional and expanded facilities. Shifting populations within the City will result in changing land use patterns and will help determine the location of new facilities.

### **Technological Trends**

Technological change will continue at an ever-increasing rate. Advances in information technology will enable the Department to more effectively manage and equally distribute resources, facilities and programs. The Department is currently in the early phases of renovating its information systems in coordination with the City-wide initiative to upgrade and improve information management.

- World Wide Web - With more public meetings being aired on public access channels, servers will allow the opportunity for the Department to provide additional venues for more education on park and recreation opportunities, services and facilities. The Forestry Division's Web Page is a recent example of this trend.
- Energy Efficient Transportation Technologies - Clean air initiatives and rising energy costs have increased Departmental use of alternatively fueled fleet vehicles. The Department provides hike and bike trails to encourage non-vehicular transportation in conjunction with the City's other multi-modal transportation systems and infrastructure.
- Energy Efficient Facility Technologies - New cellular computer systems currently under consideration for ballfield lighting control have the potential to dramatically reduce department energy costs for lighting and reduce personnel time for management of the system. This system is funded in the 2004 Capital Improvement Program.
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Technology - With new Spatial Data Engine (SDE) servers, the City provides a variety of map layers and data for documenting existing park acreage, as well as for use in planning future park sites.
- Interactive Web Site - The Department is working with other City departments to create an interactive website so that a variety of City facilities, including park addresses, facility inventory information, and pictures of park sites can be made available to the public.
- Global Positioning Systems (GPS) - The Department uses GPS technology to inventory a variety of park facility information, including data on trees. In 2000, an inventory of trees in the Mayfest area of Trinity Park yielded useful information concerning tree location, species diversity, and condition. This data is being used and updated to help in tree removal decisions that can affect citizen safety, as well as determining how to protect the health of exiting long-standing trees to keep them from going into decline and determining where new trees should be planted.

With GIS technology, we can now pinpoint the areas of fastest population growth, study land ownership patterns, and acquire key parcels before development demand drives up property

prices or destroys open space. Further, GIS technology helps create contiguous park space, protecting natural habitats and connecting larger parks with linear greenways rather than a patchwork quilt of open space.

### **Trends in Urban Pattern**

The City of Fort Worth guides land use to ensure that the land resources of the City appropriately encourage economic development, promote a variety of housing developments, preserve natural and historic resources and accommodate transportation routes and public facilities in order to protect and promote the quality of life. During the planning process of the City's *2000 Comprehensive Plan*, participants expressed a strong preference for a multiple growth center development pattern. Multiple growth centers, or compact urban land use, enables the efficient operation of infrastructure, mass transit, recreational facilities, and other City services with fewer environmental impacts, less land consumption, less traffic and less pollution than a dispersed development pattern.

- Intermodal Transit opportunities, demonstrated by the City of Fort Worth Intermodal Transit Center, will continue to be developed along major transportation corridors on the edges of the City such as the I-35 corridor in the north and south of the City placing demands on the Department to add and improve services in those areas. The Alliance Corridor and the associated residential, commercial, and industrial development have increased the need for a variety of transportation options.
- Central Business District (CBD) - The CBD will increase the demands on Departmental infrastructure. Lands once considered not viable in the downtown core have experienced rejuvenation by the City providing incentive programs to visionary entrepreneurs. The strong trends in downtown Fort Worth towards high density residential mixed-use in conjunction with an improving office market has restored the vitality of downtown Fort Worth and made it the envy of many cities around the world. Limited parklands in the CBD and increasing use levels due to the increased number of downtown residents and visitors will continue to strain Departmental resources.
- Diversifying the Economy - An increasing importance on park and community amenities in attracting corporate citizens to Fort Worth has been re-established. As the City strives to diversify the economy it must compete with other cities to attract corporate citizens. Increasing focuses on employee wellness has caused corporate entities to look at the parks and recreation services offered by cities competing to attract new businesses and jobs.
- Historic Preservation facilities such as Log Cabin Village are one way to ensure that the historic legacy of the Fort Worth parks system is valued as a significant community resource.

- Needs Assessment - As the City grows and areas of the City change, new ethnic centers will develop with different cultural customs, values and traditions and in all likelihood different needs for services from the Parks and Community Services Department. The Department conducts needs assessments and on-going user exit polls of community centers seeking to discover these unique needs and plan accordingly.
- Higher Density Residential Development - Promotion of higher density, mixed-use, neighborhood development, encourages walking, bicycling, the use of public plazas and the need for creating attractive streetscapes that link urban neighborhoods.
- Regional Attraction - Shared municipal boundaries and the City's reputation as one of the nation's most popular destinations has given rise to increased use of facilities, such as the Botanic Garden, Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, Log Cabin Village, Fort Worth Zoo, and the Fort Worth Stockyards by a much larger constituency than the residents of Fort Worth, proper.

The urban design goals and objectives are established to improve the function and aesthetic quality of Fort Worth's built environment, and are based on public input obtained during the planning process. Successful urban design should establish an attractive, well-planned city that promotes pedestrian activity, encourages the full enjoyment of the city's public realm, enhances the community image, and attracts the private investment necessary to create vibrant growth centers, thriving entertainment districts, and safe neighborhoods.

The current redevelopment of the downtown area has become unprecedented with the redevelopment of the Bank One tower (a thirty-five story tornado-damaged building) into a high-rise consisting of residential units, retail stores and restaurants at an estimated cost of \$65 million to be completed in 2005. Redevelopment of this type promotes transit-oriented development, which encourages compact urban development adjacent to transit stops and interchanges.

RadioShack Corporation has chosen the Fort Worth downtown area for its expansion initiative. At a cost of \$200 million, work is underway on a thirty-one acre parcel of land bordering the Trinity River. The new corporate headquarters will include a 300,000 square foot building with an anticipated completion date of 2005. Similarly, Pier 1 Imports has also chosen the downtown area to relocate its headquarters. The project, to be completed in the fall of 2004 is estimated at \$90 million. The 40,000 square foot facility will sit on fifteen acres of land bordering the Trinity River.

Using state, federal and local funds, the City is converting Lancaster Avenue into a pedestrian-friendly boulevard with trees, decorative lighting, wide sidewalks and a median. This \$14.5 million collaborative effort is estimated to be complete by the summer of 2005. In the same respect, the City Council unanimously endorsed the concept of a 7.6 mile system that would be the start of light-rail streetcar service. It would run from the Cultural District through downtown and the Medical District. All of these large projects and landscaping additions will require the addition of resources for development and maintenance.



## Departmental Trends

The Parks and Community Services Department is dedicated to providing a clean and attractive park system that is safe for all users, ensuring orderly growth and development, revitalizing Central City parks, accessibility to all users and enhancing mobility for our diverse community. Our commitment to services and recreational programming will provide opportunities for access to all segments of the population based on community service demands and national standards for park, recreation and open space while preserving the City's natural resources, cultural diversity and neighborhoods.

- Revitalization - Recreation and open space contributing to the revitalization of the Central City.
- Maintenance Assessment - Although the Department has an outstanding historic legacy, the drawback of this history is that Fort Worth, like many other cities, is faced with an aging and deteriorating park and recreation infrastructure. As the infrastructure declines, it eventually reaches a point where some facilities must be removed to ensure the safety of the citizens.
- Static and declining operating budgets limit the ability to prevent declining infrastructure through required and recommended preventative maintenance.
- Capital Needs Inventory - Increased needs for recreation facilities in a fast growing city will present challenges throughout the Department. The City's *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy* (as revised, 2004) and the voter approved 2004 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) projects provide a response to these population density changes that have impacted park service delivery.
- Recreation - Trends in recreation will provide opportunities for new collaborations and additions to recreation and leisure offerings in the community (i.e. dog parks and skate/inline parks). We are working towards wellness programs for seniors and youth that may create new funding sources to achieve these objectives.

## Trend Implications

The implications of these trends on the City's park, recreation, and open space system have been and continue to be profound, affecting every aspect of our strategic planning process and our delivery of services. In order to anticipate and plan for the many trends identified in this section and to build on the strong historic legacy of the Fort Worth park and open space system it was necessary for the Parks and Community Services Department to undertake this master planning process. The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for future renovations, development and expansions or reductions in the Fort Worth park, recreation and open space system. This plan is based on the historic legacy of the natural and developed resources of the system and the needs and desires of the citizens of Fort Worth. The plan establishes priorities, standards and statements of direction for the future based on a detailed needs assessment and potential resources; and is the result of the Department's comprehensive planning study providing guidance and recommendations for the City for the next ten years.

## Use of This Master Plan

This document consists of the following sections:

- II) Goals and Objectives** - All activities of the Parks and Community Services Department are guided by the directives provided in the Department's Strategic Plan. The initiatives recommended by this master plan are rooted in understanding the issues identified by the Strategic Plan and by striving to achieve the goals and objectives that address those issues.
- III) Plan Development Process** - This section describes the methods used by the Parks and Community Services Department in the development of this master plan.
- IV) Area and Facility Concepts and Standards** - This section describes the park and open space standards developed for the Department based on the standards endorsed by the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. It also identifies classes of facilities required to meet the demands of the citizens.
- V) Inventory of Areas and Facilities** - This section provides an inventory of existing parks, community centers, school and other agency facilities used through joint agreement and identifies potential opportunities for park, recreation and open space facilities.
- VI) Needs Assessment and Identification** - This section describes the results of the 2004 Needs Assessment. It also summarizes the results of the telephone survey, and citizen input in order to document the necessary user demand information needed to evaluate current levels of service. The Needs Assessment provides the necessary information to adapt national standards to local standards for parks, recreation facilities and open space. Summaries and comparisons of information generated in the 1991 Pavlik Survey, 1997, 2001 and 2004 Needs Assessment Surveys, the 2003 Fort Worth Citizen Survey, and ongoing information gathering activities of the Parks and Community Services Department served as the baseline for this needs assessment.
- VII) Plan Implementation and Prioritization of Needs** - **This section identifies recommendations for plan implementation. Recommendation evaluation criteria are described and the priorities of each recommendation are substantiated. Priorities are described within the context of the City and Park Planning Districts (PPD). Cost estimates of the highest priorities are provided and a recommended schedule of implementation and phasing is presented. Potential funding sources are identified.**

## Section II: Goals & Objectives

### Introduction

The resources available to an agency are usually less than the opportunities for service delivery. Hence the importance of planned decision-making. It is here that the agency seeks to realign its activities and redirect its efforts to ensure that they are the best fit for the current and predicted future environment.

*"Strategic planning looks objectively at where the organization is now, at where it has been in the past, at where it is headed in the future, and how it is going to get there. Strategic planning assumes that change is inevitable: change brings with it risk but strategic planning can chart a course so that an organization minimizes risks while maximizing opportunities." John Crompton and Charles Lamb 1986, Marketing Leisure Service.*

The residents of Fort Worth have expressed what they most value about Fort Worth, as well as issues that should be addressed over the next five to ten years. The following planning initiatives have been shaped by our citizens' comments, the City of Fort Worth's mission and vision statements, as well as City Council Strategic Goals.

### City of Fort Worth Mission Statement

*"Fort Worth, Texas is a city focusing on its future. Together we are building strong neighborhoods, developing a sound economy and providing a safe community."*

### Community Vision

*By the year 2020, Fort Worth will be commonly recognized as the most livable city in Texas. Residents will be able to enjoy Fort Worth's friendly atmosphere and the opportunities that are associated with a growing economy and diverse community. Fort Worth's public schools will produce well-rounded citizens and a skilled workforce to fill high-paying jobs in local businesses. Fort Worth's environmental quality also will be superior, meeting the highest national standards.*

While government plays a vital role in the creation of public parks, recreation and open spaces, governments cannot do the job alone. This strategic plan has been developed to provide an enhanced variety of services offered through teamwork, commitment of staff, support groups, volunteers, natural resources, and in-kind support from other City entities.

Since the early 1990's, the Parks and Community Services Department has undertaken a process of long-range strategic planning and departmental reorganization to meet the needs of the community. During this decade, and central to the strategic planning process, the PACSD set in place processes and procedures designed to: identify park planning districts,

determine levels of park facility deficiencies within those districts, and collect and evaluate park user information from City residents.

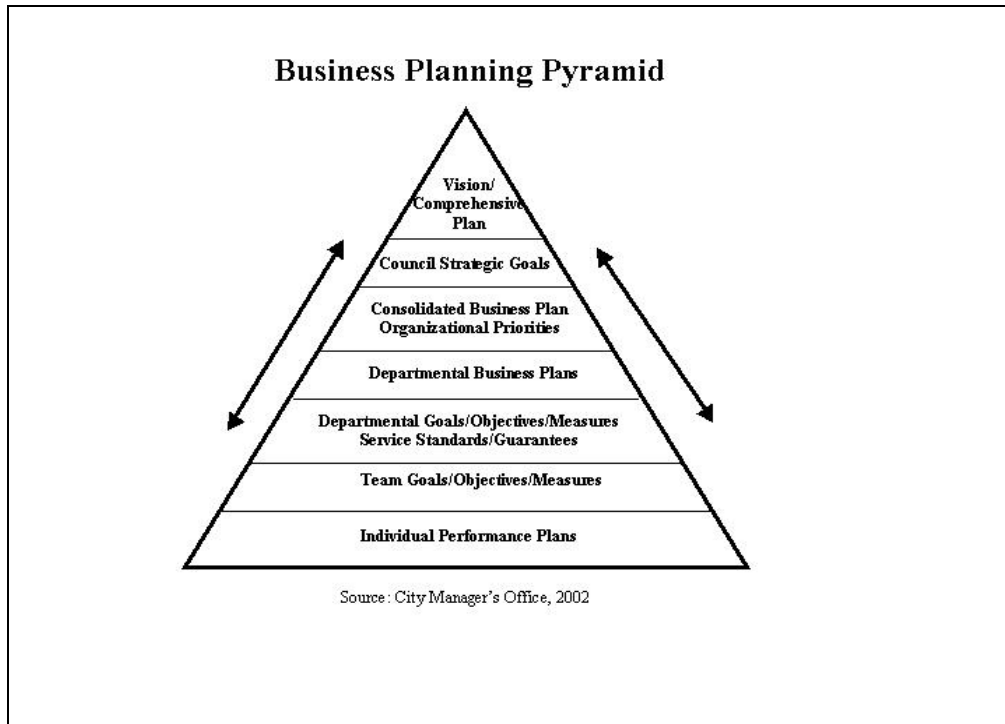
In 1998, the analysis of information gathered led to the formulation of the 1998 Capital Improvement Bond Program (CIP) and set a framework for formulation and adoption of goals and objectives set forth in the 1998 Park Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. As the City moved into a new century, the City Council developed City-wide strategic planning goals. For additional information on the history of Parks and Community Services Department strategic planning, refer to the *1998 Park Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

In 2002, the Parks and Community Services Department Annual Work Plan evolved into a Business Planning process. This plan considers the City's Strategic Goals listed below. The goals are the result of the 2001 City Citizen Survey and benchmarking the City's resources with that of other comparable cities. In 2003, a seventh City Strategic Goal was adopted. In addition to these goals, management and staff included three organizational priorities that encompass communication, customer service and diversity.

#### City's Strategic Goals for 2003-2007

- *Create a clean, attractive city and neighborhoods*
- *Make Fort Worth the safest major city*
- *Create a diversified economic base and job opportunities*
- *Revitalize the Central City including neighborhoods and commercial corridors*
- *Promote orderly growth in developing areas*
- *Create a user-friendly government*
- *Improve mobility and air quality*

These strategic goals, along with the vision statement in the City's *2004 Comprehensive Plan* and the City's financial policies, help guide the City Manager in formulating an annual consolidated Business Plan. Each City department prepares an annual business plan describing their mission and vision, organization, budget, major initiatives, and performance measures. The Business Plan relates the department's activities to the City's Strategic Goals and to the City's organizational priorities: communication, customer service, and diversity. The business plan also relates the department's activities to the goals, objectives, policies, programs and projects contained in this master plan. This strategic alignment of the planning and budgeting processes, combined with continuous public input, helps to ensure that the City of Fort Worth provides the best possible service to its citizens.



Over the next ten years, the Parks and Community Services Department will implement projects and program strategies that will meet these goals and provide for a clean and attractive park system that is: safe for all users, encourages and supports economic development, positively impacts communities in need, be accessible to all users and will enhance mobility for our diverse community. Services and recreational programming will provide opportunities accessible to all segments of the population based on community service demands and national standards for parks, recreation, open space, and community services while preserving the City's natural resources, cultural diversity and neighborhoods.

#### Departmental Mission

*"To enrich the lives of our citizens through the stewardship of our resources and the responsive provision of quality recreational opportunities and community service."*

The Parks and Community Services Department's Business Plan reflects these goals which have been refined for inclusion in this Master Plan. This Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan ensures that we are addressing citizen needs and strategically positioning our resources to deliver the fundamental services. This plan commits the Department to specific strategies for fulfilling those needs and providing those services.

A systems planning approach was administered to assess the park, recreation and open space needs of the Fort Worth community and translated into an action plan to meet the special needs and facility requirements of our citizens. Equally important, this Master

Plan will become a component of our City's *2005 Comprehensive Plan* which is built upon land use planning decisions, housing, transportation, drainage, schools, utilities, environmental management, industry and commerce. This Master Plan has a built-in ongoing assessment of the leisure needs and interests of our community designed to respond to changing needs, opportunities, and constraints that will face the Fort Worth community in the future.

The result of this planning process is a strategic plan based upon community needs, which address park and open space planning, recreational program development, operations and maintenance strategies, and funding/revenue/partnership opportunities. The approach to this plan was organized to address four critical questions:

- Who should or must be served by Fort Worth's parks and programs?
- What services will they want?
- What services should be provided?
- How will resources be identified achieved, maximized and allocated?

This approach required in-depth analysis of the Department's strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and vision and strategy development.

## Goals and Objectives

<b>I. ISSUE: Who should or must be served by Fort Worth's parks and programs?</b>		
<b>Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity - Create or identify opportunities for customers, volunteers and employees to ensure access to parks and services for all regardless of race, gender, age, income or physical ability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve departmental staff awareness of the diverse recreational, cultural and educational preferences of our customers.</li> <li>• Foster among staff a "Customer First" mentality and communicate such to our customers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide customer service training for all "front line" employees each year.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing/Promotion - Effectively promote a variety of programs and services provided to enhance awareness and satisfaction of the customer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and use a variety of formal and informal techniques such as periodic "Needs Assessments" to gauge changes and trends in service wants and needs.</li> <li>• Define the community's needs and target the department's resources.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a promotional program to fully communicate the products and services that are available through the department.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide issue awareness training for Park Board and key staff annually (e.g., ADA, cultural diversity, national and local issues from environmental assessment).</li> <li>• Conduct a repeat of citizen survey every year thereafter; secure either public or private resources to support.</li> <li>• Work with United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, School Districts and other entities to generate an annual "Needs Assessment" related to recreational, educational and cultural needs.</li> </ul>
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Issue I addresses the Department's human resources, marketing and public relations plans. In assessing who should be served by our parks and programs, the Department is also meeting the following City Council Strategic Goals: 1) revitalize the Central City including neighborhoods and commercial corridors, 2) create a user-friendly government, and 3) make Fort Worth the safest major city. The three organizational priorities of communication, customer service and diversity are incorporated in all objectives listed to accomplish the goals set.

A comprehensive three-year plan to market and promote the department will be developed to achieve a greater recognition of the park system and the facilities and service offerings. The department will integrate customer surveys with promotion and marketing efforts and analyze responses to respond better to customer needs. A greater understanding of the department's facilities and services by the public and other City departments will create better utilization of resources and will generate support for future programming and resource needs.

Residents will be able to access public knowledge and learn marketable skills in their neighborhoods through the provision of Computer Learning Labs. The program adds a dimension of providing recreational facilities intended to serve the population in which they are located. Youth will gain skills and have additional resources to assist them with their education. These labs will provide an opportunity to assist in bridging the digital divide and address the need for efficiency and equity in the delivery of quality public services. With the addition of computer labs, a very needed service will be provided to residents of the neighborhoods.

II. ISSUE: What services will they want?		
Goals	Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality Customer Service Delivery - Continually review and adjust the organization to provide the most efficient and effective service delivery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve timeliness of departmental response to concerns and requests for information.</li> <li>Develop multiple strategies for receiving customer input on facilities and services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish measures to gauge the timeliness and appropriateness of departmental actions on customer complaints and requests.</li> <li>Develop an evaluation process to assess facilities and services.</li> <li>Conduct exit or "satisfaction" polls at recreation centers, Garden Center, swimming pools, golf courses and other "destination" facilities on a systematic basis.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Citizen Involvement - Strengthen the role of the community in determining service level needs to ensure that responsive quality services are realized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Customer service</li> <li>Communication</li> <li>Diversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct an evaluation of the department's promotional material and activities; refine as needed.</li> <li>Conduct focus sessions with primary customer groups on a semi-annual basis.</li> <li>Develop a coalition of public and non-profit entities to look for opportunities to share responsibility.</li> </ul>

Issue II addresses the Department's service delivery plan. In assessing what services will be provided by the Parks and Community Services Department, we are also addressing the following City Council Strategic Goals: 1) create a user-friendly government, 2) create a clean, attractive city and neighborhoods and 3) improve mobility and air quality. In order to ensure that we are approaching and delivering on strategic goals of the City and the department, it is critical to incorporate the City's organizational priorities into each strategic goal. It is important that each of our goals is targeted towards providing the best customer service while effectively communicating our programs, resources and facilities to a diverse citizenry.

Citizens regularly request amenities and maintenance levels that are beyond current funding and policy. In order to meet the needs of customers with limited departmental resources, it is necessary to have a viable Adopt-A-Park program. The Adopt-A-Park program will allow the Department to partner with neighborhoods and organizations to enhance their neighborhood parks. This type of collaboration will help stretch maintenance dollars and critical resources.



Existing programs are continuously customized to meet changing demographics and recreational needs of our citizens. The Parks and Community Services Department strives to achieve equity and diversity in both programs and facilities.

Residents will be able to access public knowledge and learn marketable skills in their neighborhoods through the provision of Computer Learning Labs. The program adds a dimension of providing recreational facilities intended to serve the population in which they are located. Youth will gain skills and have additional resources to assist them with their education. These labs will provide an opportunity to assist in bridging the digital divide and address the need for efficiency and equity in the deliver of quality public services.

<b>III. ISSUE: What services should be provided?</b>		
<b>Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation/ Preservation - To effectively and efficiently plan for and manage natural and developed resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the effectiveness of policies and procedures in the acquisition, development and management of park lands and community facilities.</li> <li>Create an inventory of land needs that are not meeting current needs and develop alternative strategies to achieve preservation/protection for future needs.</li> <li>Work with Texas Forest Service to protect the integrity and quality of the surrounding natural tree network, respond to locally based needs, and provide an appealing and harmonious environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Texas Parks and Wildlife, Audubon and other environmental support groups to inventory land in Fort Worth that may be targeted for acquisition as another means of protection.</li> <li>Watershed Management Projects with other City departments, Tarrant Regional Water District, Streams and Valleys, Inc. and the North Central Texas Council of Governments to manage and conserve the floodplain and drainage corridors.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programs - To ensure that programmatic areas are properly developed and administered to meet the needs and desires of the customer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure equity of facilities, programs and services across all areas of Fort Worth.</li> <li>Determine the base level of services required.</li> <li>Develop annual action plans, in cooperation with the Park Board, to ensure progress on goals and objectives identified in the Strategic Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct systematic evaluations of the services and programs offered or sponsored by the department.</li> <li>Review annually those services that may be handled by other agencies or groups without adversely affecting service levels.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Management/ Safety - Ensure the safety of our customers who use our services and facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a proactive rather than a reactive posture toward customer safety; develop systems and procedures of risk assessment and risk management to enhance public safety.</li> <li>• Develop/upgrade drainage and erosion control plans to reduce flooding in community parks.</li> <li>• Ensure road replacement and parking lot projects in community parks receive adequate attention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Track police crime reports in order to develop actions to address major trends and types of crimes in parks.</li> <li>• Develop a systematic process to determine and address conditions in our facilities and programs that may pose safety hazards to our customers.</li> </ul>
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Issue III addresses the department's acquisition, natural resource preservation, recreation service delivery and maintenance and operation plans. In assessing who should be served by our parks and programs, the department is also meeting the following City Council Strategic Goals: 1) create a clean, attractive city and neighborhoods, 2) make Fort Worth the safest major City, 3) revitalize the Central City including neighborhoods and commercial corridors, 4) promote orderly growth in developing areas and 5) improve mobility and air quality. The three organizational priorities of communication, customer service and diversity are incorporated in all objectives listed to accomplish the goals set.

In June 2003, the City Council adopted the *Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge Master Plan*. The next steps include determining short-range goals that can be achieved in-house and through the 2004 Capital Improvement Program. Step two will require staff to work with members of the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, the Endowment Committee and others to solicit funding for center improvements and construction of a new Visitor's Center.

Also, in June 2003, the City Council endorsed the *Trinity River Vision Master Plan* and allocated resources for a multi-faceted leadership team to begin the task of developing a strategy for implementation. The Department will collaborate with other agencies involved in this project to maximize the use of resources dedicated to this project. A more vibrant river corridor and town lake will result in renewed economic development in the Downtown area. The Trinity River Vision Master Plan's greatest impact will be on the revitalization of the inner city. Improvements will result in a cleaner and more attractive river corridor. Extension of the trail system will enhance accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclist thus improving mobility and air quality.

The risk management/safety plan includes the revision of the current structure of the Department's Safety Board to reflect organizational changes and includes the creation of a video training library for operations and safety concerns specific to Parks and Community Services operations. Annual evaluation of playground infrastructure,

biweekly inspection of playground and park facilities and Facility Cleanliness Standards have been adopted and the application of said standards will reduce potential liability for staff and customers at all departmental facilities.

As the City develops commercial corridors, the Parks and Community Services Department supports those projects by reviewing landscape and streetscape plans. Once the corridor has been developed, plans and resources must be established for the maintenance of the areas. Green space in urban areas provides substantial environmental benefits. The U.S. Forest Service calculated that over a 50-year lifetime, one tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycles \$37,500 worth of water, and controls \$31,250 worth of soil erosion.<sup>1</sup>

In June 2000, the park dedication policy, which is part of the City's Subdivision Ordinance, became the *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy*, in a revision to include fees for neighborhood park development and for community parkland acquisition. This revision addressed needs generated by continued growth. The Policy requires residential developers to dedicate neighborhood parkland and provide facility development fees as they develop within the City, or submit fees-in-lieu of land, as well as provide for community parkland needs. This increases Department's ability to provide adequate parkland and recreational services as our population increases. Over \$3 million dollars has been collected in fees-in-lieu of land since June 2000, with several hundred acres of parkland dedication and million of dollars in built park facilities to come on-line in the next five years.

Also, the Parks and Community Services Department is working with the Water Department's Village Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Environmental Management Department to develop and implement a number of projects utilizing composted biosolids generated by the treatment plant. The beneficial reuse of biosolids will enhance the department's current composting program. Environmental quality will be improved by diverting additional material from the landfill and improving the quality of turf where applied. This program is an expansion of our compost operation. The Forestry Division strives to recycle all plant materials removed from the public right-of-way by offering free mulch and compost to the citizens of Fort Worth.

A comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan is being created for storm water control improvements along the City's drainage way corridors, typically located within public park and open space areas, through the use of proposed development impact fees. Green space in urban areas provides substantial environmental benefits. Trees reduce air pollution and water pollution, they help keep cities cooler, and they are an effective and less expensive way to manage storm water runoff. According to the American Forests Urban Resource Center, "by incorporating trees into a city's infrastructure, managers can build a smaller, less expensive storm water management system."<sup>2</sup>

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1 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Pamphlet No. R1-92-100, cited in "Benefits of Trees in Urban Areas," Colorado Tree Coalition, <http://www.coloradotrees.org>.

2 Beattie, Knollin, and Moll, "Trees Help Cities Meet Clean Water Regulation," p. 18.

IV. ISSUE: How will resources be identified, achieved, maximized and allocated?		
Goals	Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial - Meet or exceed service delivery objective identified in the annual operating budget as well as other resource sources and identify areas for productivity improvement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a systematic review of infrastructure needs to support budgetary decisions and capital improvement program requests.</li> <li>Communicate more effectively the resource demands on parks and community services in order to secure adequate resource levels.</li> <li>Establish formal methods of soliciting and receiving contributions for the improvement and operation of parks and services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop computerized system to track operation costs by facility and program, in order to measure cost-effectiveness and efficiency.</li> <li>Develop appropriate measures of effectiveness related to maintenance, communication, product or service development.</li> <li>Develop a policy and process by which offers of private gifts for capital development or service support may be addressed quickly.</li> <li>Maximize the use of grant funds for facilities and services, including funding of staff.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital Improvement Program - Voter approved general obligation bonds to finance improvements to the City's parks, recreation and community services facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct three new community centers to meet the needs of underserved neighborhoods.</li> <li>Renovate existing facilities and develop new park facilities.</li> <li>Provide funds for grant match for federal and state projects to provide new pedestrian and bike corridors to support Trinity River Vision in the Central City and for improved neighborhood linkages.</li> <li>Update/improve existing park service centers to include road paving and the addition of storage facilities to more adequately distribute services to serve city growth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace existing playgrounds that are deteriorating at 36 park sites.</li> <li>Replace trail bridges or perform structural renovations at 3 park sites.</li> <li>Perform walk and trail replacements at 10 park sites.</li> <li>Replace deteriorated athletic fields at 13 competition athletic field sites.</li> <li>Replace 11 ballfield lighting systems where existing lighting is in poor condition and upgrade to a centralized lighting control.</li> <li>Upgrade 6 drainage and erosion control projects in community parks.</li> <li>Replace 23 parking lot and road replacement projects in community parks.</li> </ul>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Resources - Implement human resource policies, procedures and practices that exhibit a caring for the human being that performs the mission to include hiring, development, training and opportunities for upward mobility.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore alternative strategies for service delivery and seek the appropriate support for the implementation of selected strategies.</li> <li>• Increase the number and scope of volunteer opportunities.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster and promote more volunteers in parks and programs.</li> <li>• Provide internship and training programs to diversity staffing in the department.</li> </ul> |
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Issue IV addresses the Department's finance plan. In identifying, maximizing, and allocating resources, the Department is also meeting the following City Council Strategic Goals: 1) revitalize the Central City including neighborhoods and commercial corridors, 2) create a clean, attractive City and neighborhoods, 3) create a diversified economic base and job opportunities, 4) promote orderly growth in developing areas and 5) improve mobility and air quality. Along those lines, the three organizational priorities of communication, customer service and diversity and incorporated in all objectives listed to accomplish the goals set.

The human resources plan exists to assess the changes in leadership and departmental knowledge due to retirements in the next five years and to develop a strategy to retain organizational knowledge and skills while providing training and leadership opportunities to existing staff. This also ensures quality customer service through orderly leadership transition.

Community centers will conduct fairs and programs about the mobility and clean air initiative. Educating the public could increase ridership of mass transit and enhance efforts for cleaner air. Continued growth and the current *Neighborhood and Community Parkland Dedication Policy* (as revised, 2004) result in developed parks and medians being added to the City's inventory without adding staff and adequate funding, taxing the department's ability to provide services.

Fort Worth citizens voiced their opinions and suggestions on the City's Capital Improvement Program at eleven (11) community meetings held City-wide, via the Internet using the City's bond program Website, through the bond program hotline and U.S. mail. As of February 7, 2004, the voters have authorized the sale of \$273.5 million in general obligation bonds, of which, \$27,665,000\* go toward financing improvements to the City's parks, recreation and community services facilities. These improvements include building three (3) new community centers, renovating existing facilities and developing new park facilities.

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\* This proposition includes two percent of proceeds (\$425,000) for public art, as prescribed by City Council approved ordinance. As projects are built out, City officials and citizens will work together in deciding how to incorporate public art and enhancements.



## **Section III: Plan Development Process**

### **Introduction**

The Fort Worth Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is developed following processes recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (APRA). This plan serves as an evolving document that is reviewed and updated over time and provides a dynamic planning framework from which the future needs of the citizens of Fort Worth can be anticipated and met. The plan complies with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant application criteria and meets requirements similar to those outlined in the National Park Service's Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program. The comprehensive nature of this master plan addresses the planning and development priorities of the Fort Worth park system for the next five (5) to ten (10) years as identified by the citizens of Fort Worth, the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board, the Fort Worth City Council and City staff.

### **A Systems Approach to Park Planning: Strategic Plan**

The Parks and Community Services Department (the Department) employs a systems approach creating the framework for park master planning. The Department has a long history of strategic park master planning that has at its core an effective use of citizen needs assessment tools, adherence to the City's overall vision for community enhancement, and identification of corresponding goals, objectives, and strategies. Traditionally, these goals, objectives and strategies were used to create Annual Work Plans, however since the adoption of the first comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan in 1998, Annual Work Plans have evolved into Departmental Business Plans. Goals and objectives that the citizens rate as important are ratified by the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board and integrated as part of an update to the Departmental Business Plan. The identified priorities serve as a guide for decisions made in producing and updating the park master plan. For details concerning the current plan's goals, objectives and strategies, see Section II - Goals and Objectives.

### **The Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**

The first comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was adopted in 1998. The 1998 Plan compiled a history of the park system in Fort Worth and outlined all of the strategic planning processes that had occurred since 1991. Goals, objectives and strategies identified in the 1998 Plan were developed using the best traditional master planning processes. Goals, objectives and strategies outlined in this plan were crafted from analysis of information provided by a detailed citizen Needs Assessment Survey, from incorporation of elements gleaned from the City's overall vision and in conjunction with the City's 1998 Capital Improvement Program. In addition, there was a comprehensive study of the park system's existing inventory and use of 1990 population data and projections to best anticipate future needs. Advances and availability of computer mapping and data analysis tools allowed for establishment of specific park

planning districts, which serve as the target areas for needs assessment survey data compilation and park inventory and service deficiency evaluation. In 2004, this overall process was repeated and the Master Plan goals, objectives and strategies were formulated using newly adopted City Council Strategic Planning Goals in conjunction with projects approved in the 2004 Capital Improvement Program. A current Needs Assessment Study was performed, and district deficiencies determined using data from the current park inventory, Census 2000 population data and population projections.

### **Inventory of Existing Facilities, Programs, and Opportunities**

The 1998 Park Recreation and Open Space Master Plan divided the large geographic area of the City into eight (8) Park Planning Districts (PPDs). PPDs were derived from the physical character of the City based on: major roadways, rivers, creeks, and topographic features that serve as the boundaries for the park planning districts, as well as being based on population density considerations. Since 1998, the City's population has undergone density shifts spurred by increased residential development and redevelopment activities. Annexations of large tracts of land in the north and northwest increased the land area of the corporate city limits, and increased residential development in those areas.

Rapid population growth and population density changes have impacted park service delivery. In response to these changes, the Department revised its 1995 *Neighborhood Park Dedication Policy* with a more comprehensive *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy* in April 2000. This new policy sets standards for parkland dedication, park facility development or fees-in-lieu thereof. Implementation of this policy addresses some of the needs for facility development and funding in areas increasing in population density. In 2004, a new PPD structure was approved which established a Central City Park Planning District, PPD 4 to address increasing residential development in the inner City. This required PPD boundary changes and reduced the planning districts in number, from eight districts to five.

The Parks and Community Services Department's resources are evaluated through a process of inventory, analysis and assessment. Each park in the system is inventoried to determine acreage, location and age of existing facilities. In addition, each park is evaluated to determine if classification modifications are required according to park classification standards published by the NRPA and adopted by the City. This information is used in conjunction with needs assessment instruments to evaluate areas for future park facility needs.

The inventory contained in this master plan is a descriptive and mapped inventory of existing park, recreation and open space facilities. This inventory changes as park acreage comes into the system and new park facilities are constructed on park property. Proposed new future park sites are mapped and fees collected for facility development of these future sites is tracked. This information is used in the prioritization process for capital improvement expenditures. Existing park facility data, and associated information



are housed in a park inventory database that is designed in such a way that data fields contain information useful when making planning considerations and address:

- levels of existing park, recreation and open space infrastructure
- connections to regional open spaces and facilities
- relationships to school sites and facilities
- relationships to other public land and facilities
- relationships to private, non-profit and commercial recreational facilities

This existing inventory and the conditions of the facilities in the inventory serve as the resource base for any future plans for the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Future plans and recommendations are based on the inventory and derived from the will of the people as indicated in responses to the Needs Assessment Surveys and feedback received in the plan review process. For detailed information on the park facility inventory, see Section V - Inventory of Areas and Facilities.

### **Needs Assessment**

The Needs Assessment process traditionally uses citizen surveys to gather data for review. Findings from the survey and citizen feedback are used in conjunction with recreation industry standards and population data to help guide park master planning processes. Since 1991, surveys have been created and modified such that each survey, as consistently as possible, is comparable in some categories over time. As industry and consumer trends in recreational preferences change, surveys are revised accordingly. The current plan uses data collected in 2003. For detailed information on the 2004 Needs Assessment see Section VI - Needs Assessment. The following outline details the importance of citizen needs assessment in the park planning process:

#### Overall Objectives of the Needs Assessment Survey

1. To provide the necessary user participation data and desired services to facilitate the development of the Department's comprehensive plan.
2. To solicit information which will assist the department in making future management and marketing decisions.
3. To update and add detail to the level of information developed from previous City efforts to acquire citizen input.

#### Specific Objectives of the Needs Assessment Survey

- 1) To identify the priorities of Fort Worth citizens in each geographic district and in different social and demographic groups for:
  - a) New or renovated facilities, amenities, and services in their planning district.

- b) The allocation of Department funds for the facilities and services the Department offers.
- 2) To solicit citizen guidance as to the future direction of the Department as a provider, facilitator and/or outreach agency.
- 3) To increase the Department's understanding of why more Fort Worth citizens do not take advantage of the services and facilities provided by the City.
- 4) To identify the level of support acceptable to users and non-users of the park and recreation system.
- 5) To measure the extent of constituency use and support for each type of program and facility offered by the Department.

The survey conducted for the Needs Assessment provides the following information:

- a) Participation data for key recreation and leisure activities that utilize public facilities or city-sponsored programs. The survey participation data was of sufficient detail for PACSD to utilize the NRPA Park, Recreation and Greenway Guidelines in the evolution of community based park, recreation and facility standards. The participation data identified to what extent citizens use park and recreation facilities and which sub groups of citizens use particular facilities.
- b) Occurrence of non-users in the population. The Needs Assessment Survey identified what obstacles are to be overcome so that the existing citizen market can be expanded to meet the needs of a larger segment of Fort Worth's population.
- c) Profiles of survey respondents by key demographic variables that are comparable to the 2003 Fort Worth Citizens Survey and previous PACSD surveys.
- d) Level of awareness of various facilities, programs and services offered by the Parks and Community Services Department; the sources of information on facilities, programs and services (e.g. newspapers, TV, radio, brochures, flyers, and word of mouth).
- e) Preferences and priorities of citizens for future spending on department-provided services and facilities.

### **Park and Recreation Facility Standards**

Setting facility standards enables the Department to identify areas in the City that have deficient or surplus park resources. Park classifications provide guidance related to the most efficient way to plan, design, build and manage the resources associated with each

park class. The standard determines user demand for park and recreation facilities from the Needs Assessment Survey and that information is combined with the facility and resource availability determined in the inventory.

This means that the service standard is a "needs based, facilities driven, and land measured" means of identifying deficiencies and opportunities in the park system. This process allowed for the development of specific criteria that could both generate explicit recommendations for the master plan and provide a statistical basis for determining the priorities of the plan recommendations. The information derived from the inventory, Needs Assessment Survey and the classification process provided the framework for determining recommendations, the priorities and sequencing of those recommendations within the five (5) to ten (10) year time frame of this Master Plan.

In 1998, the Department undertook an examination and reclassification of park sites. The new standards were tested in the Needs Assessment Survey and through a series of staff reviews to ensure that the park classifications met the needs of the citizens. The adopted park classification system in the 1998 Plan incorporates recommendations of the NRPA in terms of measuring service area, levels of service achieved and which classifications should be included in these measures of service. Service area calculations were performed on those classifications recommended by the NRPA. Those classifications include: neighborhood park, community park, large recreation park and special use parks.

Since 1998, increasing population densities, particularly in the Central City where redevelopment initiatives are encouraged to use higher-density residential zoning classifications, has given the department a unique challenge of providing open space in developed urban areas. These challenges have been met by implementing park planning district boundary revisions, as well as drafting revisions to the Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy.

### **Plan Implementation, Recommendations, Priority, and Scheduling**

Deficiencies and opportunities are identified from inventory information, application of service standards and classification measurements in conjunction with population and demographic data gathered from each Park Planning District. From each of the identified deficiencies and opportunities, recommendations are made to improve areas of deficiencies and act on opportunities presented. The criteria established for evaluation of the priorities are based on: the available resources identified in the inventory; the needs and desires of the citizens identified in the Needs Assessment Survey; and the degree to which each recommendation meets the vision, mission and goals of the Departmental Business Plan. Each of these important areas of information is evaluated within the context of Region, City, Park Planning District and Council District to determine priority rankings for each recommendation. For Factors that influence plan recommendations, priorities, and scheduling see Figure III-1.

For each Park Planning District, priorities are ranked and the highest priorities are listed in each geographic area. Based on the priority ranking and the cost of each recommendation, they are placed in the five (5) to ten (10) year time frame of the Master Plan's implementation schedule. Immediate needs of the highest priority that fit within Department budget projections are placed on the implementation schedule in years one (1) through three (3). Mid Range Needs of moderate priority are placed on the implementation schedule within the three (3) through five (5) year time frame. Long Range Needs are placed in the five (5) to ten (10) year time frame of the Master Plan implementation schedule. Progress towards implementation of the master plan will be measured in the Departmental Business Plan.

An annual review process will keep the recommendations of the plan active and in the minds of all parties associated with the successful implementation. Staff updates the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board and City Council with monthly capital improvement program status reports and amends the Park Master Plan as projects are completed, or as new major initiatives are undertaken. See Section VII - Plan Implementation and Prioritization of Needs.

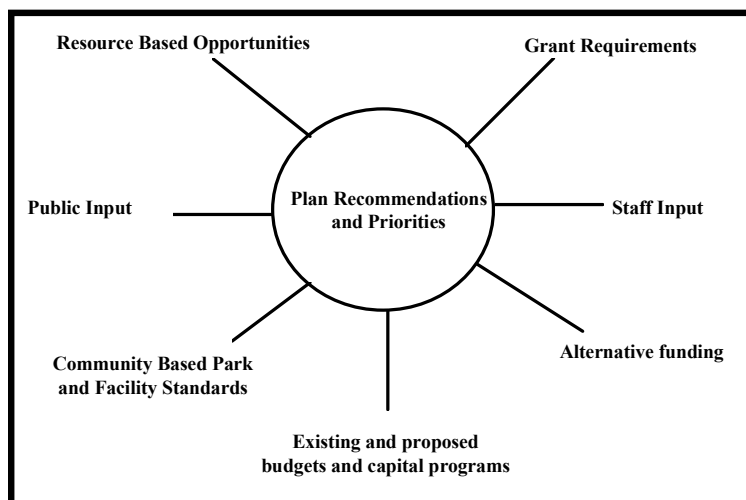


Figure III-1 Factors affecting Plan Recommendations, Priorities and Scheduling

The following section elaborates on the establishment of local standards and concepts and how they have been applied to the City's park inventory.

## Section IV: Area and Facility Concepts and Standards

### Introduction

When creating the 1998 Park Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the Department assessed its inventory and evaluated the classification system. This analysis of park classifications was conducted considering the 1991 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, the 1992, 1994 and 1996 City of Fort Worth Citizen Surveys and the 1997 Needs Assessment Survey conducted by National Service Research of Fort Worth. The analysis of the classification system revealed that the basic classifications had been in place since Kessler's original plan for the City Park System, and that the park classification system needed revision in order to more accurately reflect existing parkland types and capture the current recreational uses and needs of the community.

Establishing park classification and service standards are a necessary part of the planning process because they provide a set of general benchmarks against which to evaluate areas of the City for parkland and park facility deficiencies. Identifying these deficiencies and finding ways in which to remedy them effectively, lay at the foundation of the City's overall mission:

#### City of Fort Worth Mission Statement

*Fort Worth, Texas is a city focusing on its future. Together we are building strong neighborhoods, developing a sound economy and providing a safe community.*

#### The Parks and Community Services Department Mission Statement

*To enrich the lives of our citizens through the stewardship of our resources and the responsive provision of quality recreational opportunities and community services.*

Deficiencies in parkland acreage and facilities are determined by analyzing specific geographic areas in terms of: existing population density, the amount of existing parkland, the available park facility inventory, and taking that data and comparing what exists to an adopted standard service level for each park classification and facility type.

As a result of research and comparison of parkland and recreation service standards, the City of Fort Worth determined a set of service level standards to be applied to the City as a whole, and within specific geographic regions in order to identify and address the parkland and recreational needs of the City. This section of the Master Plan offers an explanation of the City's service standards and how they have been applied to the City's park inventory.

This section of the Master Plan includes:

- 1) Overview of City of Fort Worth Parkland Classifications and Service Standards
- 2) Overview of Citywide Demographics
- 3) Description of Parks by Classification and Use [Recreation Activity Menu]
- 4) Overview of Existing Park Planning Districts, Neighborhood and Community Park Units

### **Park and Recreation Facility Service Standards**

The City of Fort Worth's park classification system and service level guidelines adopted in the 1998 Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan reflected a mix of National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Standards, Regional Service Levels, recommendations of City staff and the consensus of the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board. The adopted guidelines had their foundation in 1990 and 1996 NRPA and American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) guidelines, as well as a comparative analysis with selected cities adjacent to the City of Fort Worth.

The outcome of the 1998 classification revisions was the creation of two major categories for parkland which are used when determining park acreage and facility deficiencies within Park Planning Districts (PPDs): *Local Close-to-Home Parks* and *Regional Parks*. These two major categories of parks were broken down into four (4) specific types of parks that provide unique recreational opportunities: Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Large Recreation Parks and Special Use Parks. For a detailed breakout of the 1998 park classification revision refer to the *1998 Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan - Section VI - Tables*. In 2004, the classification of *Mini Parks* (originally considered a subset of neighborhood parks) was renamed and redefined as *Pocket Parks*. Pocket Parks are the smallest category of close-to-home parks and occur in densely populated and developed sections of the city, such as within the Central City.

#### **Local Close to Home Parks**

Pocket Parks  
Neighborhood Parks  
Community Parks

#### **Regional Parks**

Large Recreation Parks  
Special Use Parks

<b>Table IV-1 City of Fort Worth Parkland Service Level Ranges</b>	
<b>Parkland Classification Types</b>	<b>Per 1,000 Persons</b>
Total Local/Close to Home Space	6.25 - 10.5 Acres/1,000 Persons
Total Regional Space	15.0 - 20.0 Acres/1,000 Persons
Total City Parkland	21.25 - 30.5 Acres/1,000 Persons

<b>Table IV- 2 City of Fort Worth Recreational Facility Service Standards</b>	
<b>Recreation Facilities</b>	<b>Per 1,000 Persons</b>
Practice Fields	1:5,000
Competition Softball / Baseball Fields	1:12,500
Competition Soccer Fields	1:10,000
Basketball Courts	1:5,000
Hike and Bike Trails (1 Mile)	1:10,000
Picnic Shelters	1:10,000
Tennis Courts	1:5,000
Playgrounds	1:4,000
Picnic Units	1:1,100
Swimming Pools	1:80,000
Golf Courses (18 Holes)	1:80,000

### **Community Centers**

The Department has adopted a standard of 1:30,000 for the provision of community centers. This standard falls between the NRPA standard of 1:25,000 and the Regional Service Level. Community centers are capital-intensive undertakings and have high operating and maintenance costs. The Department recognizes the need for the programs and facilities that are housed in City community centers and continues to seek partnerships with independent school districts and local non-profits to provide community center programs and facilities in a way that best utilizes public resources.

Community center development will only occur when no alternative partnering can provide needed facilities. When all other avenues have failed to provide community center facilities to an area of the City, the following criteria must be met to warrant the capital expenditures on the construction of future community centers.

- (1) No community center or comparable facility exists in the area.
- (2) The area to be served must have a population of 30,000 within the 1.5 mile service area radius of the proposed community center location.

If two or more areas of the City are deficient in community centers, then priority is given to the area with the highest population. If the areas to be served are comparable in population then priority is given to the areas located in the Central City.

### **City-Wide Demographics**

The population of the City of Fort Worth continues to grow and change. Growth today is due to immigration, an increased birth rate, longer average life expectancy, and domestic migration. City of Fort Worth Planning Department projections indicate that the population of the City will likely grow at an average rate of 1.7 percent annually. In 2003, the City's population was estimated at 577,500 with a projected 2024 population reaching 772,000 residents.

## Population

2000 Census Population	546,372
2005 Population Estimate	580,152
2010 Population Estimate	624,956
2020 Population Estimate	727,416
2030 Population Estimate	826,665

Based on growth projections issued by the North Central Texas Council of Governments in April 2003, by 2009, year five of this Master Plan, the City's population will be between 580,000 and 620,600 residents. This steady growth pattern presents challenges for the Department and requires a continuing increase in funding to meet the increasing needs of a growing population.

Population and economic trends help to predict future needs for various land uses. Now more than ever, the potential for growth in Fort Worth is an even greater concern. Today the City has 338 square miles of area, forty-seven percent of which is vacant. One-third of the undeveloped land in Fort Worth is constrained by factors such as steep slopes or location within the floodplain, and is thus unable to be developed. Based on the City of Fort Worth Planning Department's land use projections, it is expected that the city limits will expand by fifty-three square miles to 390 square miles by 2024 or approximately 2.5 square miles per year. Vacant undeveloped land (18,533 acres) or future annexations will change land use to support the growing population by 2008. The development of this undeveloped property would account for approximately twenty-one percent of the existing undeveloped land. There would still be nearly 69,000 acres of vacant undeveloped land if no further annexations occurred.

The general profile of the Fort Worth population, based on 2000 Census data, indicates a population that is of unpretentious means with 35.61% of the families with median family incomes of \$50,000 to \$99,999.

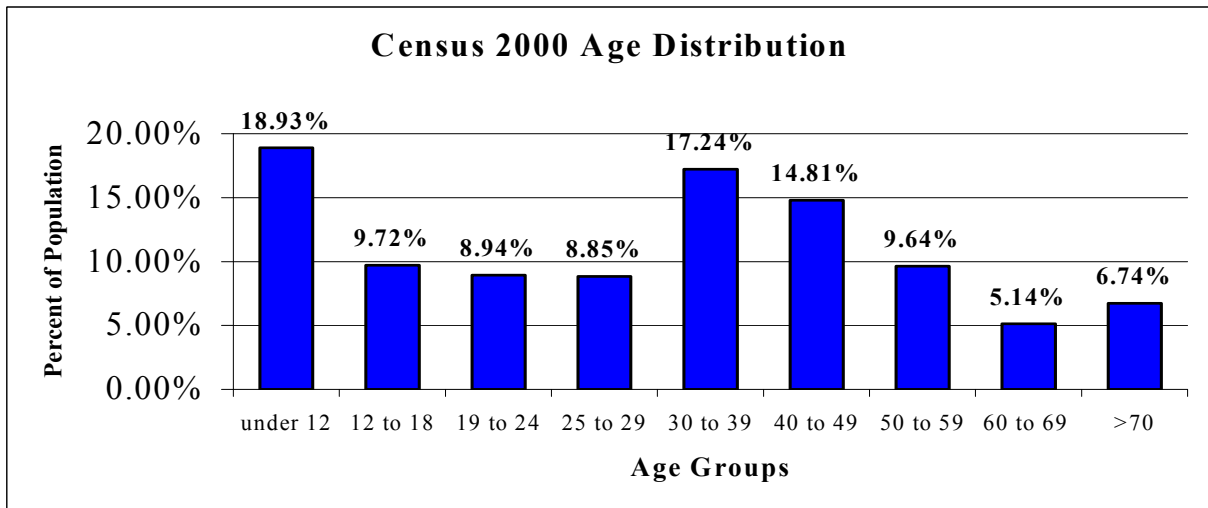
<b>Table IV-3 2000 Family Income Distribution</b>					
<b>LESS THAN \$20,000</b>	<b>\$20,000 TO \$24,999</b>	<b>\$25,000 TO \$34,999</b>	<b>\$35,000 TO \$49,999</b>	<b>\$50,000 TO \$99,999</b>	<b>\$100,000 AND OVER</b>
14.95%	4.99%	12.35%	17.59%	35.61%	14.51%

<b>Table IV-4 2000 Family Households</b>	
Total Households	196,183
Average Persons per Household	2.63
Households with Persons Under 18	28.64%



Estimates for 2000 indicate a significant increase in the number of households from 168,274 to 196,183 persons. The estimates for 2000 also indicate a slight shift downward in average household size from 2.66 in 1990 to 2.63 in 2000.

**Chart IV-1**

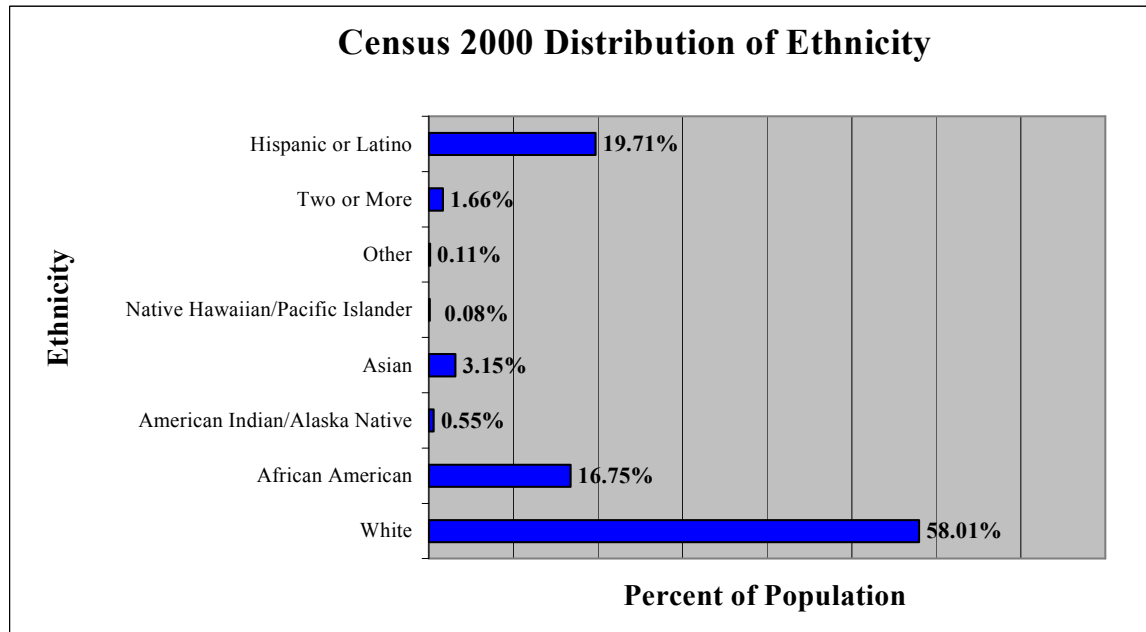


While the aging Baby Boom generation (those born between 1946 and 1964) is expected to increase demand on social services, Fort Worth is a relatively young city compared to national and state demographics. The 2000 Census reported a median age of 30.9 years in Fort Worth, 32.0 for the State of Texas, and 35.3 for the United States. The number of persons over the age of 65 in the City was 51,462. According to City of Fort Worth Planning Department projections, this figure will decline in the next few years, but will increase again between 2010 and 2020 as the first members of the Baby Boom generation reach the age of 65 in 2011. Between 2010 and 2020, the number of persons aged 65 or older will grow to an estimated 54,000. This age group will continue to grow beyond 2020 to 2029, when the remaining portion of the baby boom generation reaches 65.

The number of school-aged children is also expected to increase. The number of children in the City of Fort Worth between the ages of five and nineteen is expected to increase from 122,340 in 2000 to approximately 176,000 by the year 2024. This will increase the need for educational facilities and resources for youth. The greatest growth will occur in the general working-age adult population, which will help to offset the increases in young and elderly populations. The adult population between the ages of twenty and sixty-four will increase from 316,575 in 2000 to approximately 456,000 by 2024. If current trends continue, there will be more working adults per dependent population in 2024 than in 2000. Over 65% of the households in Fort Worth are family households and over 36% of households in 2000 had children under 18 years of age.

Fort Worth is an ethnically diverse city. The minority population (42.01%) is almost equal in size to the white population (58.01%). The three major ethnic populations are White 58.01%, Hispanic (all races) 19.71%, and African American 16.75%. Other ethnic groups, as indicated in the chart below, comprise the remainder of the population.

**Chart IV-2**

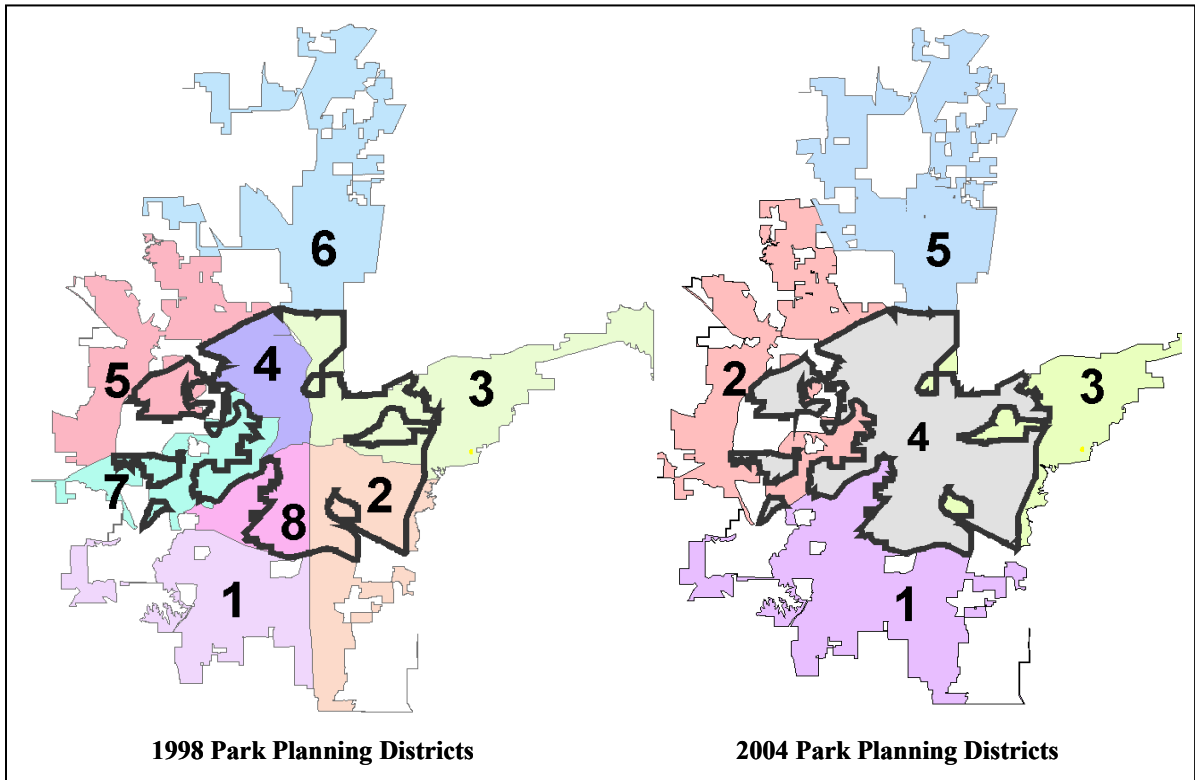


## Geographic Planning Areas

### Park Planning Districts

The Department identifies and uses Park Planning Districts (PPDs) as a basis for determining a broad overview of park acreage and park facility deficiencies. A detailed description of these units is available in *Section V: Inventory of Areas and Facilities* of this plan. In 2004, the Department restructured the PPDs from eight districts to five and in doing so created a Central City Park Planning District (PPD 4). This Central City district was created in order to address special open space and facility considerations in redeveloping areas of the Central City. The following map shows the old and new Park Planning District boundaries in relation to the defined Central City area.

**Map IV-1 Comparison of 1998 and 2004 Park Planning Districts**



<b>Table IV-5 Summary of Parkland Service Levels Per Park Planning District</b>						
<b>Park Planning District</b>	<b>2000 Census Population</b>	<b>Total PPD Parkland Acreage</b>	<b>Park Acreage by Type</b>	<b>Existing Acres per 1,000 Population</b>	<b>CFW Standard Level of Service per 1,000 Population</b>	<b>Service Using Minimum Standard</b>
<b>1</b>	125,279	1,581.67	close	6.92	6.25 to 10.5 acres	Served
			regional	5.71	15 to 20 acres	Underserved
			<b>Total PPD 1</b>	12.62	21.25 to 30.5 acres	
<b>2</b>	73,709	4,390.98	close	10.43	6.25 to 10.5 acres	Served
			regional	49.14	15 to 20 acres	Served
			<b>Total PPD 2</b>	59.57	21.25 to 30.5 acres	Fort Worth Nature Center
<b>3</b>	58,048	772.70	close	4.93	6.25 to 10.5 acres	Underserved
			regional	8.38	15 to 20 acres	Underserved
			<b>Total PPD 3</b>	13.31	21.25 to 30.5 acres	
<b>4</b>	239,202	3,098.86	close	6.22	6.25 to 10.5 acres	Served*
			regional	6.73	15 to 20 acres	Underserved
			<b>Total PPD 4</b>	12.95	21.25 to 30.5 acres	
<b>5</b>	50,134	485.98	close	9.69	6.25 to 10.5 acres	Served
			regional	0.00	15 to 20 acres	Not Served*
			<b>Total PPD 5</b>	9.69	21.25 to 30.5 acres	

Table IV-6 Example of Generalized Park Facility Service Levels					
Park Planning District	Example Facility Types	Facility Need Based on CFW Service Standard	Number Existing Facilities	Level of Service	For a prioritized breakdown of park facility needs by category and proposed capital improvement projects refer to <i>Section VII- Plan Implementation and Prioritization of Needs</i>
1	Playgrounds	31	28	Underserved	
	Hike/ Bike Trails	13	17	served *	
	Comp. Soccer Fields	13	3	underserved	
	Community Centers	4	2	underserved	
2	Playgrounds	18	15	underserved	
	Hike/Bike Trails	7	3	underserved	
	Comp. Soccer Fields	7	1	underserved	
	Community Centers	2	1	underserved	
3	Playgrounds	15	17	served *	
	Hike/ Bike Trails	6	3	underserved	
	Comp. Soccer Fields	6	1	underserved	
	Community Centers	2	1	underserved	
4	Playgrounds	60	70	served *	
	Hike/ Bike Trails	24	21	underserved	
	Comp. Soccer Fields	24	20	underserved	
	Community Centers	15	8	served *	
5	Playgrounds	13	15	served *	
	Hike/ Bike Trails	5	7	served *	
	Comp. Soccer Fields	5	5	served *	
	Community Centers	2	0	not served	

\* Although sufficient parkland acreage and recreational facilities may be available in a broad Park Planning District area, the City looks more closely at acreage deficiencies at the Neighborhood Park Unit level of service. Spatial distribution and service areas for land and facilities, as well as neighborhood needs assessment data and population projections play a pivotal role in decision-making and provides a more useful measure of close-to-home parkland and facility deficiencies. Refer to Sections VI and VII.

## PARK UNITS

Park Planning Districts (PPDs) are subdivided into smaller geographic regions that reflect park service areas at a community and neighborhood level (close-to-home parks). These smaller subdivisions are referred to as *Park Units* and are classified as Community Park Units (CPUs) and Neighborhood Park Units (NPU). It is at this geographic level that parkland deficiency has its most fundamental impact. Increased residential development increases area populations and subsequently increases the demand for recreational and community services. To address this increased need for parkland and facilities for new subdivisions, a park dedication policy exists in the City's Subdivision Ordinance and is implemented in such a way that as new residential communities are developed in the City, parkland and facility needs are met for the new residents.

Implementation of the *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy* insures that the City stays ahead of residential development in provision of parkland and recreational services. Park Units found to underserve the existing population in the

availability of neighborhood and/or community parkland requires that any developer seeking to add a new residential population must either dedicate parkland to serve the new residents, as well as provide fees for park facility development, or pay fees-in-lieu of land to the City for future land acquisition and facility development within the Park Unit.

### Neighborhood Park Units

A Neighborhood Park Unit (NPU) is an area of approximately 1/4 to 1/2 mile service radius and designed to serve approximately 3,000 - 6,000 people. Areas of smaller population density will have larger neighborhood park units. There are 196 NPUs currently designated. According to 2000 Census population data and the current inventory of parkland, thirty-two (32) NPUs are served by existing neighborhood parkland, sixty-two (62) are underserved, and 102 are not served by any neighborhood parkland.

### Community Park Units

A Community Park Unit (CPU) is an area of approximately 1 to 1½ mile service radius to serve approximately 18,000 - 36,000 people. Areas of smaller population density will have larger Community Park Units. In general, there are typically six Neighborhood Park Units within each Community Park Unit. There are thirty-one (31) CPUs currently designated. According to 2000 Census population data and the current inventory of parkland, seven (7) CPUs are served by existing community parkland, ten (10) are underserved, and fourteen (14) are not served by community parkland.

<b>Table IV-7 Summary Park Unit Service Levels Per Park Planning District</b>						
<b>Park Planning District</b>	<b>Neighborhood Park Units</b>			<b>Community Park Units</b>		
	<b>Served</b>	<b>Under Served*</b>	<b>Not Served*</b>	<b>Served</b>	<b>Under Served*</b>	<b>Not Served*</b>
<b>1</b>	9	11	18	2	2	1
<b>2</b>	5	8	14	1	2	3
<b>3</b>	5	9	16	1	1	1
<b>4</b>	6	31	41	3	4	4
<b>5</b>	7	3	13	0	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>

\* Many Park Units that are not served or are underserved are areas of the City that have predominately commercial or industrial land uses, extensive floodplain regions, or have been residentially built-out prior to ability to acquire parkland. In addition, many Park Units are comprised of undeveloped property that will be developed residentially and subject to *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy* requirements as development occurs.

For more detailed information concerning how parkland acreage and park facility deficiencies are being addressed and remedied in Park Planning Districts, see *Section VII: Plan Implementation and Prioritization of Needs – Land Needs and Plan Priorities*.

## **CITY OF FORT WORTH STANDARDS FOR LOCAL CLOSE-TO-HOME PARKS AND REGIONAL PARK SPACES**

### **Local Close-to-Home Park Space**

#### Pocket Park

The Pocket Park is 1 to 5 acres and found predominately in densely developed, more urbanized areas of the City, particularly within the Central City. The purpose of the Pocket Park is to provide open space and park facilities designed to meet the unique needs of residential neighborhoods in the urban environment.

#### Neighborhood Park

The Neighborhood Park is 5 to 20 acres, easily accessible and is typically within walking distance of homes in the neighborhood. The purpose of the Neighborhood Park is to meet the daily park, recreation and open space needs of the neighborhood.

#### Community Park

A Community Park is 20 to 75 acres and also plays an important role in providing similar recreational facilities as a neighborhood park, but with additional acreage to accommodate larger athletic fields for league play and room for community center construction as neighborhoods grow. Community Parks should serve an average of six neighborhood units. These facilities are the cornerstones of Fort Worth's park system.

These two close-to-home park classifications provide the park and open space facilities that are intended to meet the daily needs of our citizens.

### **Other Community Facilities Meeting Local Close-to-Home Park Space Needs**

Other neighborhood facilities provide opportunities for local close-to-home recreation. In Fort Worth, the Independent School Districts also have facilities at the heart of each neighborhood unit that afford the residents opportunities for recreation. Although the majority of these facilities are beyond the control of the Parks and Community Services Department, they are fulfilling some needs of Fort Worth residents. When feasible, the Department works in unison with the Independent School Districts to develop neighborhood parks adjacent to neighborhood schools.

### **Regional Space**

Regional Spaces are generally greater than 70 acres and/or provide unique recreation and tourist opportunities. These types of parks include large recreation parks, trail systems, and special use facilities that tie the open space fabric of the City together. Examples of special use facilities in the Fort Worth park inventory are the Trinity Trail System, the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, and the Botanic Garden.

## **PARK CHARACTERISTICS BY CLASSIFICATION**

### **General Neighborhood Park Characteristics**

The neighborhood park is easily accessible and is typically within walking distance of homes in the neighborhood. The purpose of a neighborhood park is to meet the daily park, recreation and open space needs of the neighborhood. For new neighborhood park development, public meetings are held to determine the specific needs of local neighborhoods.

The Departmental standard for practice fields is 1:5,000. This indicates that one practice field should be located in a neighborhood park. Other facilities that have this same standard are tennis courts and basketball courts. A Department standard for playgrounds has been set at 1:4,000. This also indicates that a playground should be located in a neighborhood park.

The typical allocation for first phase development of a minimum 5-acre Neighborhood Park site is approximately \$150,000. This is the amount funded for first phase neighborhood park development for the 2004 Capital Improvement Program. This amount can vary depending on the actual size of the park, community recreational needs, and whether or not the park is an existing reserve park site, or if the land must be acquired.

### **Acquisition**

Neighborhood parks are typically acquired through the City's Subdivision Ordinance, which includes provisions for the dedication of parkland based on the City's cost participation in infrastructure development. The Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy requires that 2.5 acres of neighborhood parkland be dedicated per 1,000 residents in the new development, or payment of fees-in-lieu of land dedication if the population increase does not generate a need for the 5 acre minimum land dedication requirement.

Numerous neighborhood parks have also been acquired through citizen and foundation donations.

### **Neighborhood Park Description and Generalized Recreation Activity Menu [RAM]**

#### **A. Service Area**

1. 1/4 to 1/2 mile service radius to serve approximately 3,000 - 6,000 people

#### **B. Size**

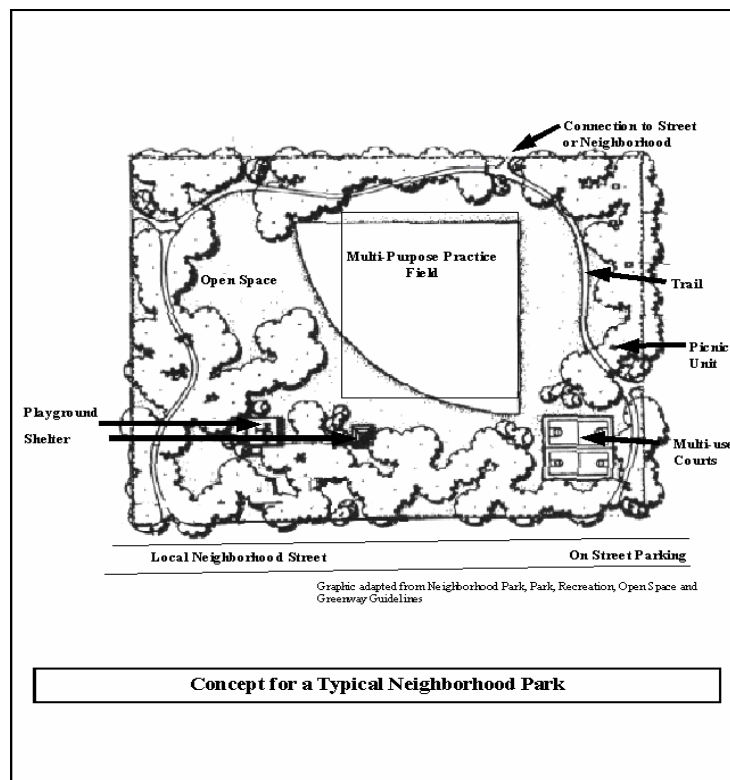
1. 5 to 12 acres if contiguous with a school site
2. 5 to 20 acres if separate from other designated open space areas

3. The department has established a policy and precedent where it will accept Neighborhood Parks (pocket parks) of a size between 1 to 5 acres only when a neighborhood is not currently served by a Neighborhood Park and when there is strong neighborhood support for a smaller park facility, such as within the Central City. This special size exemption also allows parks that are currently serving neighborhood needs to be classified as Neighborhood Parks.

C. Land Suitability Standards

1. 1/3 of site open, relatively flat topography of 2% slope for play fields/general open field activity
2. 2/3 of site may include topographic diversity/forested area for picnicking, nature study, play area, relaxing
3. Full rectangular, rounded or square shapes rather than elongated
4. Access from the neighborhood is to be relatively direct both by auto and pedestrian transportation routes

D. Parking Facilities - On street parking





<b>Table IV- 8 Standard Phase I Neighborhood Park Recreational Uses and Facilities</b>	
▪ Playground	▪ Picnic tables w/cookers
▪ Picnic shelter	▪ Picnic tables w/out cookers
▪ Multi-use court	▪ Park security lights
▪ Practice Backstop w/slab	▪ Passive non-structured open space
▪ Soccer goals	▪ Fishing (where applicable)
▪ Hike and Bike Trails (where applicable)	▪ Park benches

### **General Community Park Characteristics**

Community Parks are constructed for more structured athletic activities such as league soccer and baseball/softball, volleyball, and sites are typically designed such that there is available land for construction of a community center. Special site characteristics may allow for community park development with more intense recreational use such as lighted athletic fields, tennis center, swimming pools, in-line skate rinks, and other unique recreation facilities. Ballfields are built to competition standards with seating and parking available. Areas of natural quality are set aside to preserve the natural site features within the urban environment. Community Parks are also primary locations for compatible recreational development provided to meet the recreation needs of the community.

Typical allocation for first phase development is \$500,000 to \$750,000, excluding land acquisition. The amount allocated for first phase development depends on park size, community needs and available funding. Although first phase Community Park development was not funded in the 2004 Capital Improvement Program, matching funds are usually available for Community Park development from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant opportunities and other funding sources to supplement City funding.

### **Acquisition**

Community Parks are typically acquired through fee simple purchase of appropriate park sites. Funding for acquisition and development is derived from a mix of sources. The voters in Capital Improvement Programs approve funds for acquisition and development and those funds are usually matched with grant funding administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, or local foundations and Federal grant programs. In 2000, the Department revised the City's Subdivision Ordinance to include provisions for community parkland. The Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy requires that 3.75 acres of community parkland be dedicated per 1,000 residents in the new development, or payment of a fee-in-lieu of land if the population increase does not generate the need for the 30-acre minimum land dedication.

## Community Park Description and Generalized Recreation Activity Menu [RAM]

### A. Service Area

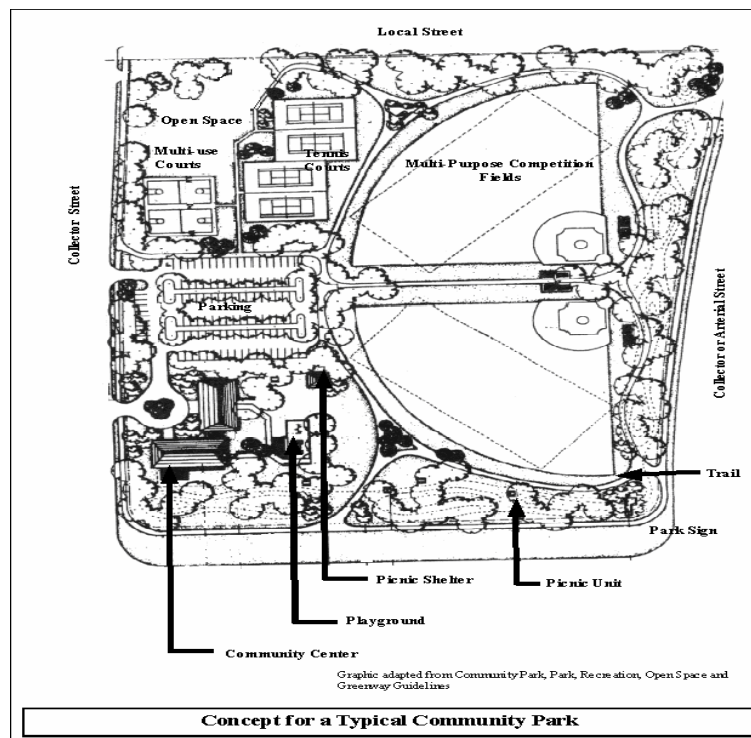
1. 1 to 1½ mile service radius to serve approximately 18,000 - 36,000 people
2. One community park per six neighborhood park units - average

### B. Size - 30 to 75 acres

### C. Land Characteristics

1. 1/3 of site open, relatively flat topography of 2% + slope for play fields/general open field activity
2. 2/3 of site with topographic diversity/forested area for picnicking, nature study, play area, passive recreational use
3. Full rectangular, rounded or square shapes rather than elongated
4. Access to be relatively direct both by auto and pedestrian transportation routes

### D. Parking Facilities - 20 - 30 off street parking spaces. Additional spaces are developed depending on the park activity, facilities and need.



<b>Table IV- 9 Standard Phase I Community Park Recreational Uses and Facilities</b>	
▪ Playground	▪ Picnic tables w/out cookers
▪ Multi-use court	▪ Park security lights
▪ Practice backstop w/slab	▪ Ballfield w/lights, irrigation, slab and bleachers/ fencing
▪ Soccer goals	▪ Parking (20-30 spaces)
▪ Hike and Bike concrete trail	▪ In-Line Skate Rink
▪ Park benches	▪ Water Fountains
▪ Picnic tables w/cookers	▪ Passive non-structured use
▪ Picnic shelter	▪ Fishing (where applicable)

## **LARGE RECREATION PARK CHARACTERISTICS**

Areas of natural quality are set aside to preserve the natural site features within the urban environment. Large Recreation Parks are also the location for compatible high use recreational facility development provided to meet the recreation needs of the community. Special site characteristics may allow for Large Recreation Park development with more intense recreational use such as lighted athletic fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and community centers.

The typical allocation for first phase development is \$750,000 to \$1,500,000, excluding land acquisition. The amount allocated for first phase development depends on park size, community needs and available funding. No Large Recreation Parks have been funded recently. Matching funds are usually available for Large Recreation Park development from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other funding sources to supplement City funding.

### Acquisition

Large Recreation Parks are typically acquired through fee simple purchase of appropriate park sites or through donations. Funding for acquisition and development is derived from a mix of sources. The voters in capital improvement programs approve funds for acquisition and development and those funds are usually matched with grant funding administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, local foundations and Federal grant programs.

### **Large Recreation Park Description and Generalized Recreation Activity Menu [RAM]**

#### A. Service Area

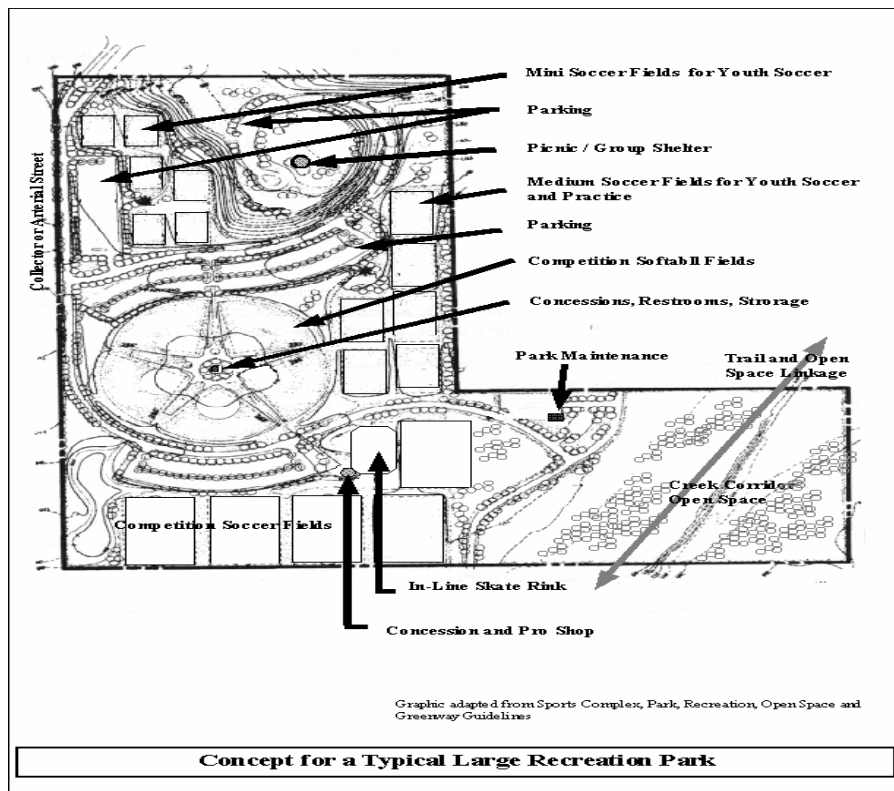
1. 2 to 4 mile service radius to serve approximately 80,000 - 100,000 people
2. One Large Recreation Park per Park Planning District

#### B. Size - 75 acres and greater

### C. Land Characteristics

1. 1/3 of site open, relatively flat topography of 2% + slope for play fields and general open field activity
2. 2/3 of site with topographic diversity/forested area for picnicking, nature study, play area, and passive recreational use
3. Full rectangular, rounded or square shapes rather than elongated
4. Access to be direct both by auto and pedestrian transportation use

D. Parking Facilities - 60 - 100 off street parking spaces. (spaces are developed depending on the park facilities and need.)



**Table IV- 10 Typical Large Recreation Park Uses and Facilities**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Playgrounds (may have multiple)</li> <li>▪ Multi-use court</li> <li>▪ Practice backstop w/slab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Picnic tables w/out cookers</li> <li>▪ Park security lights</li> <li>▪ Ballfield w/lights, irrigation, slab and bleachers/fencing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Soccer goals</li> <li>▪ Hike and Bike concrete trail (miles)</li> <li>▪ Park benches</li> <li>▪ Picnic tables w/cookers</li> <li>▪ Picnic shelter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parking (60-100 spaces)</li> <li>▪ Water Fountains</li> <li>▪ Restrooms</li> <li>▪ Passive non-structured use</li> <li>▪ Concessions (as applicable)</li> </ul>

## **SPECIAL USE PARK CHARACTERISTICS**

The Special Use classification covers a broad range of Fort Worth parks and community services facilities that are oriented towards single purpose uses such as: *nature areas* and *botanic gardens*, *golf courses* and *urban parks/squares*. Facility and acreage requirements vary substantially depending on the specific special use.

### Acquisition

Special Use facilities are acquired and developed when a special community interest evolves and citizen interest groups raise funds and become actively involved in the development of facilities to service specific needs of those groups that also serve the needs of the community. The Fort Worth Zoo, Botanic Garden and the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge each represent this type of special use facility. The Zoo, Botanic Garden and Nature Center and Refuge have a combined total of annual visitors that exceeds 1.5 million. These three facilities have active support groups that ensure that funding and volunteers are provided to service the needs of the users of these facilities.

The definition of the special use category is changed to accommodate revised subclasses, which include specific use subclasses as follows:

Special Use Nature Area - SUNA parks such as the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge and portions of Tandy Hills and Stratford Parks are oriented toward single-purpose use. Other areas of the park system may be identified as a SUNA upon the recommendation of the Nature Center and Refuge supervisor and the approval of the Department director and the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board.

Special Use Botanic Garden - SUBG

Special Use Golf - SUG

Special Use Urban Park/Square - SUUPS - examples of facilities that fit the Special Use Urban Park/Square subclass are Burnett Park, the Water Garden, General Worth Square, and Lanham Plaza.

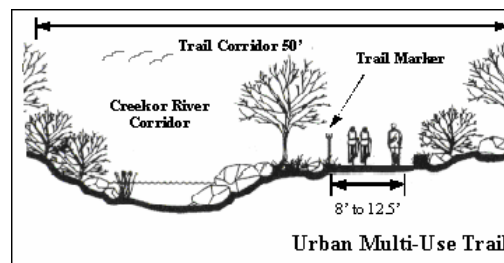
Special Use Historical - SUH - examples of the Special Use Historical subclass are Haynes Triangle, Peter Smith Park, Hyde Park and Paddock Park. Other areas of the park system maybe identified as Special Use Historical upon the recommendation of the local historical society and the approval of the Director and the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board.

## TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

All future trails and walks in the Fort Worth park system, where feasible, will either comply with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Standards or the more rigid standards of the North Central Texas Council of Governments Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Guidelines or the guidelines of the Trinity Trail System.

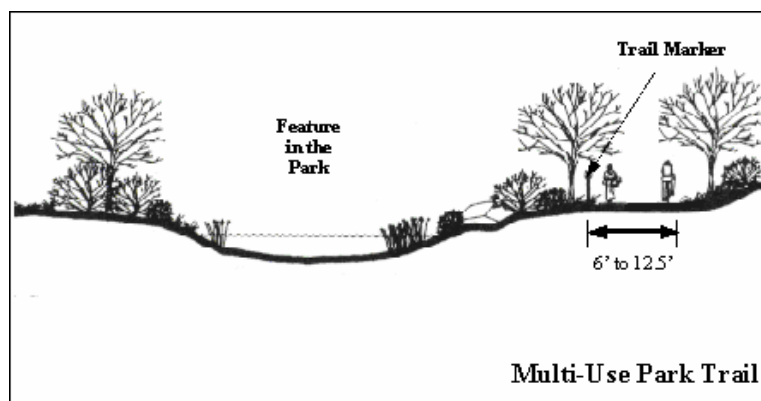
### Urban Multi-Use Trails

Major parks in the City should be linked by Urban Multi-Use Trails. An example of existing and proposed Urban Multi-Use Trails is the Trinity Trail. These high volume, high use trails are built to AASHTO Standards. They are typically eight (8) to twelve and one half (12.5) feet wide and made of concrete so that they may simultaneously accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Fort Worth trails comply with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Design Guidelines and the Trinity Trail Management Guidelines which are locally determined regional trail standards. The typical minimum corridor width recommended for this type of trail is fifty (50) feet.



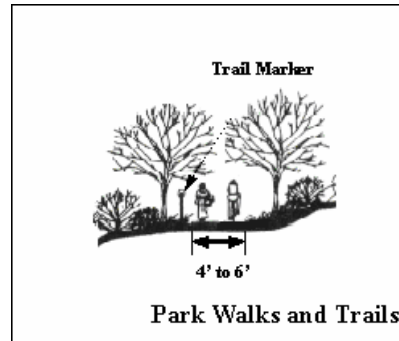
### Multi-Use Park Trails

Multi-Use Park Trails are hard surfaced trails that provide access to park facilities or natural areas. Depending on volume of use, these trails range in width from six (6) to twelve and one half (12.5) feet wide and may be constructed of concrete, asphalt or another suitable hard surfaced material.



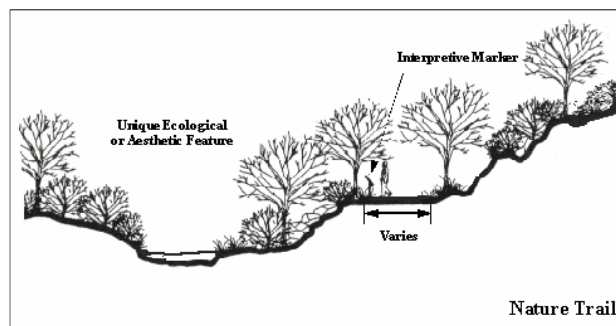
## Park Walks and Trails

Park Walks and Trails are low use trails that are four (4) to six (6) feet wide and are typically paved with concrete or asphalt. They provide access to low use areas of parks.



## Nature Trails/Paths

These are soft surface trails that provide access to sensitive natural areas. They are surfaced with materials such as Fibar, wood chips or crushed stone and have a low environmental impact.



Local area/facility standards have been determined and will be applied in subsequent chapters. The next section of this Master Plan will assess what parks, recreation and open space areas and facilities are currently within our system.





## **Section V: Inventory of Areas and Facilities**

### **Introduction**

The Fort Worth Park, Recreation and Open Space System is a dynamic connection of park and recreation facilities, and public open space. Much of Kessler's and Hare and Hare's visions for the park system has been realized either through acquisition of land or through agreements with county, local school districts, state and federal agencies.

The resources of the City and the Parks and Community Services Department were evaluated through a process of inventory, analysis and assessment. Each park in the system was inventoried to determine the number and location of facilities that exist in the park system. Each park was also examined to determine if it was appropriately classified according to park classification standards published by the NRPA. These typical park classifications and their associated facilities were tested in the 2004 Needs Assessment to determine if the Recreation Activity Menu for each park classification met the needs of the citizens. Recreation Activity Menus (RAM) are a listing of typical facilities that may be found in each park classification (see *Section IV- Area and Facility Concepts and Standards* for park classification information and associated RAMs).

The following inventory is a descriptive and mapped inventory of existing park, recreation and open space facilities City-wide and by Park Planning District. This section documents the City's:

- Existing park, recreation and open space infrastructure
- Natural and urban resource base
- Relationships to other city infrastructure
- Connections to regional open space and facilities
- Relationships to school sites and facilities
- Relationships to other public lands and facilities
- Relationships to private, non-profit, and commercial recreation facilities

### **Existing Park, Recreation and Open Space Infrastructure**

The City of Fort Worth park system consists of 228 park, recreation, and open space sites and numerous agreements with other agencies that provide the City with a connected park system. The park system consists of 195 active park sites with the remainder either on reserve for future use or leased to other government or non-profit agencies. Each park and facility in the current park system is classified by type.

In this plan, the parks are categorized according to four classifications: Neighborhood, Community, Large Recreation and Special Use Parks. The inventory of the park system has been documented and analyzed based on these park classifications and standards. Department staff conducted a detailed field survey of existing facilities at each park in the system in 2001 and again in 2003/2004. Staff from each of the operations districts conducted the field survey of facilities using inventory data sheets prepared by the

Planning and Resource Management Division. An inventory of facilities is presented later in this section where facilities are grouped according to locations in Park Planning Districts.

### **Natural Resources, Human Resources and Existing Parks**

The Hare and Hare plan's "main theme of the park system" was "the acquisition of both banks of all the principal water courses..." (Hare and Hare, 1930)

This theme and vision expressed by Hare and Hare continues to be a theme and policy of the Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department.

### **Connections to Regional Open Space and Facilities**

The Trinity River Vision Master Plan provides the framework of trails linking internal open space to the open space resources of the region. The Fort Worth park system uses the rivers and creek systems as the basis for alternate transportation to adjacent cities. Over fifteen miles of trails line most of the Trinity River, Sycamore Creek and Marine Creek. Previously developed plans include connecting the Fort Worth trail system with the Arlington trail system. Work is currently underway to expand the trail system further along Sycamore Creek so that it meets existing trails along the Trinity River.

The Department has had a long-standing agreement with the Tarrant Regional Water District for the provision of open space and trails in the Trinity River Corridor. The Water District and the Department share maintenance responsibilities and work together to expand the trail network that serves the City.

### **The Trinity River and Tributaries**

The single most significant natural resource in the City of Fort Worth is the Trinity River. A twenty-year comprehensive master plan developed under the leadership of Fort Worth Streams and Valleys, Inc. is currently in place. The majority of the Trinity River system in the City of Fort Worth is protected and preserved through City ownership or agreements with the Tarrant Regional Water District or the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District.

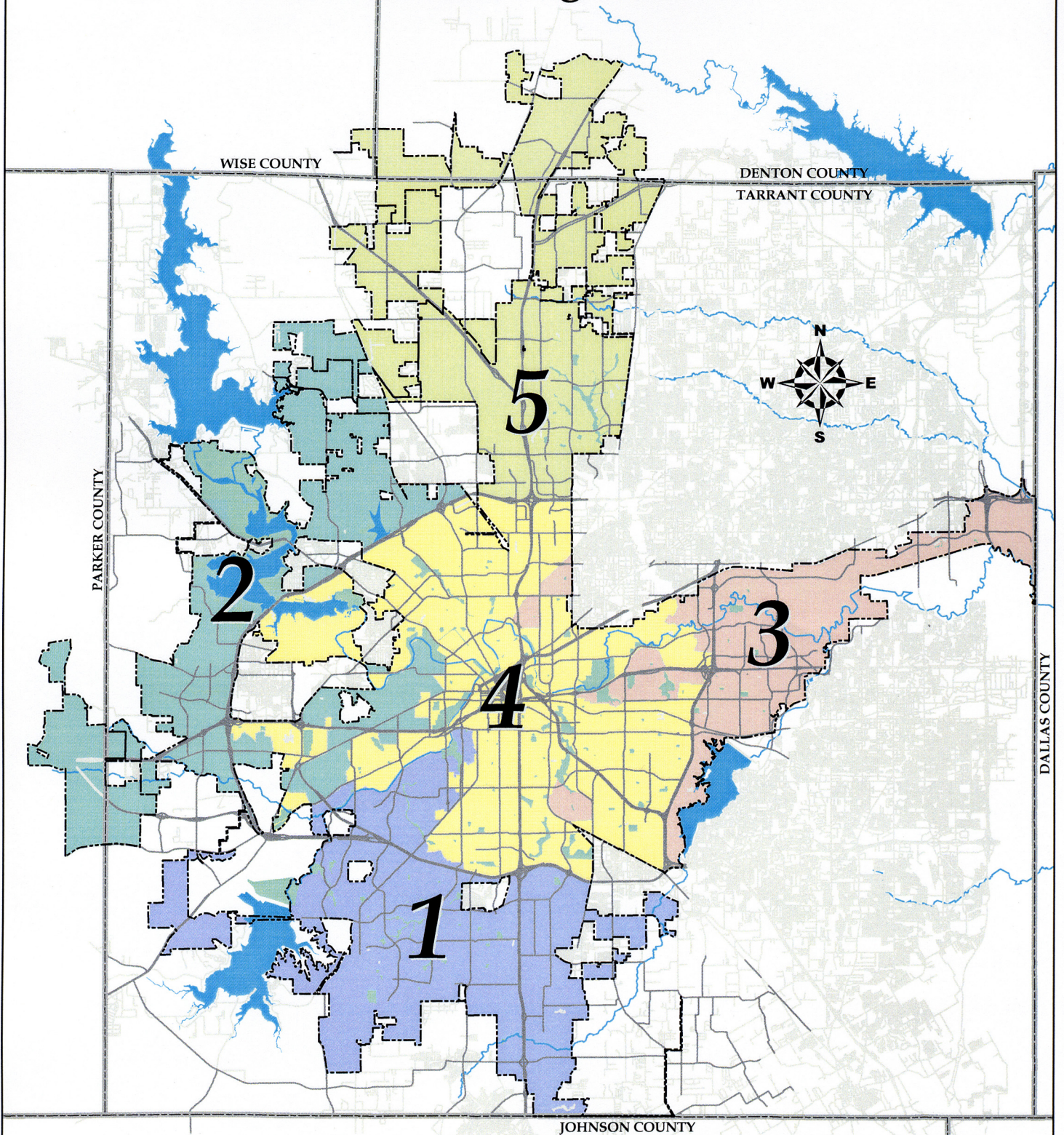
The Trinity River Vision Master Plan represents the community's vision for the future of the Trinity River Corridor in Fort Worth. The Plan identifies opportunities for recreation, conservation, linkages and open space. The primary objective of the Plan includes identifying and improving adjoining land uses, enhancing environmental quality and flood control. The master plan presents a series of universal guidelines for all land uses associated with the River Corridor. Plan recommendations include a 200-foot wide overlay zone from the proposed greenbelt edge and key urban design guidelines relating to the orientation of buildings and outdoor use areas and greenbelt access.

The West Fork of the Trinity River provides the opportunity for connection between Lake Worth and the Central Business District (CBD). Rockwood Park and Golf Course is located on the West Fork. The West Fork provides trail and open space linkages to the western and northwest neighborhoods of the City. The Clear Fork of the Trinity River connects the south and southwestern neighborhoods of the City to the CBD and provides connection between major parks such as Pecan Valley Park and Golf Course, Oakmont, River, Forest, Trinity and Heritage Parks. Throughout the park system's history, the bluff overlooking the confluence of the West Fork and Clear Fork of the Trinity River has been considered the center of the City's park system. Since Heritage Park was developed on the bluff overlooking the confluence, this park has served to connect the Trinity Trail System to the CBD. The Trinity River provides opportunities for trail and open space connection to the east between the CBD, Riverside, Greenway and Gateway Parks.

Major tributaries of the Trinity River such as Sycamore Creek, Marine Creek, and White's Branch Creek provide significant opportunities for open space and alternative transportation linkages in the City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.



# City of Fort Worth Park Planning Districts





## Existing Park System

This diverse population is served by approximately 10,424 acres of parkland, nineteen (19) City-operated community centers, one (1) athletic center, one (1) Botanic Garden, one (1) Nature Center and Refuge, one (1) Zoo, five (5) golf courses (108 holes), 156 Neighborhood Parks, thirty-one (31) Community Parks, seven (7) Large Recreation Parks, and thirty-three (33) Special Use Parks. (See Table V-4 Neighborhood Parks in the Fort Worth Park System, Table V-5 Community Parks in the Fort Worth Park System, Table V-6 Large Recreation Parks in the Fort Worth Park System and Table V-7 Special Use Parks in the Fort Worth Park System.)

<b>Table V-2 Neighborhood Parks in the Fort Worth Park System</b>					
<b>Park</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>City Council District</b>	<b>Park Planning District</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
Anderson	1998	15.22	7	2	76179
Anderson-Campbell	1999	11.49	7	4	76114
Arcadia Trail	1990	69.08	4	5	76137
Arcadia Trail Park North	1994	154.19	4	5	76137
Arcadia Trail Park South	1996	40.04	4	5	76137
Arneson	1911	0.44	2	4	76106
Arnold	1914	1.62	9	4	76102
Bonnie Brae	1957	3.70	4	3	76111
Camelot	1986	5.25	6	1	76134
Camp Joy	1918	8.23	7	2	76108
Candleridge	1976	108.00	6	1	76133
Capps	1910	4.41	9	4	76110
Chamberlin	1962	6.72	7	4	76107
City View	1985	31.31	3	1	76132
Cobblestone Trail	1971	23.76	4	3	76120
Como Community Center Park	1973	1.20	7	4	76107
Countryside Addition	1987	0.09	6	1	76133
Coventry Hills Addition	2001	7.02	2	5	76137
Creeside	1988	16.23	6	1	76123
Crestwood	1982	2.00	7	2	76114
Crossing at Fossil Creek	2000	4.02	2	5	76131
Dabney	1985	3.45	6	1	76133
Daggett	1980	3.40	9	4	76110
Deer Creek	1987	11.99	6	1	76036
Delga	1968	4.06	8	4	76102
Eagle Mountain Ranch	2000	4.32	7	2	76179
Eastbrook	1979	3.20	5	3	76112
Eastern Hills	1981	3.00	4	4	76112
Eastover	1947	13.50	5	4	76105
Ed K. Collett	1971	7.69	7	4	76107
Ederville	1974	0.91	4	3	76112
Ellis	1971	10.51	8	3	76119

<b>Table V-2 Neighborhood Parks in the Fort Worth Park System...Continued</b>					
<b>Park</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>City Council District</b>	<b>Park Planning District</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
Elm Street	2002	0.28	9	4	76102
Englewood	1973	1.06	5	4	76105
Eugene McCray Community Center Park	2000	3.00	5	4	76119
Eugene McCray Park at Lake Arlington	1986	6.07	5	3	76119
Fairfax	1968	4.00	5	4	76119
Fairmount	1990	0.68	9	4	76104
Far Northside	1976	3.44	2	4	76106
Fire Station Community Center	1975	1.70	9	4	76110
Foster	1952	11.92	3	1	76109
Fox Run	1998	4.03	6	1	76123
Freemons	1918	17.00	7	2	76108
George Markos	1973	29.69	7	2	76108
Gid Hooper	1976	1.24	8	4	76111
Glenwood	1927	35.66	8	4	76104
Goodman	1967	0.14	7	4	76107
Greenway	1926	13.50	2	4	76102
Hall-Tandy Triangle	1900	0.32	8	4	76105
Harrold	1950	2.30	9	4	76102
Harvey Street	1978	0.66	8	4	76104
Heritage Addition	2001	5.70	2	5	76248
Hulen Meadows	1986	23.04	6	1	76123
Island View	1918	14.00	7	2	76135
J.T. Hinkle	2002	5.99	7	2	76135
Jefferson Davis	1923	6.50	9	4	76110
Jennings -May-St. Louis	1997	0.85	9	4	76110
Kellis	1950	16.3	3	1	76133
Kingswood	2000	16.77	6	1	76133
Krauss Baker	1977	18.60	6	1	76133
Kristi Jean Burbach	1984	14.71	4	5	76137
Lincoln	1934	7.00	2	4	76106
Lincolnshire	1985	6.45	6	1	76134
Linwood	1957	4.00	9	4	76107
Little People	1978	2.90	6	1	76133
Littlejohn	1972	0.83	5	4	76105
Live Oak	1918	7.85	7	2	76108
Lost Spurs	2000	9.96	2	5	76262
Louella Bales Baker	1998	0.96	8	4	76111
Maddox	1905	0.96	2	4	76106
Malaga	1918	2.00	7	2	76135
Marie F. Pate	1968	5.00	5	4	76119
Marina	1918	5.00	7	2	76135

<b>Table V-2 Neighborhood Parks in the Fort Worth Park System...Continued</b>					
<b>Park</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>City Council District</b>	<b>Park Planning District</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
Marine Creek Linear	1984	48.00	2	4	76106
Marine Creek Linear North	1996	7.83	2	4	76106
Martin Luther King	1969	5.78	5	4	76112
Mary and Marvin Leonard	1960	6.53	7	2	76127
Meadowood	1935	1.75	8	4	76103
Meadows West	1984	17.24	3	1	76132
Mesa Verde	1993	0.30	4	5	76137
Monticello	1928	4.24	7	2	76107
Morningside Middle School	1985	2.41	8	4	76104
Morris Berney	1926	4.50	3	2	76116
Mosque Point	1918	80.00	7	2	76135
Newby	1951	2.75	9	1	76104
Normandy Place	1949	1.50	8	4	76103
Oakhurst	1944	0.75	2	3	76111
Oakmont Linear	1979	34.88	3	1	76132
Overton	1959	48.68	3	1	76109
Park Place	1995	5.80	4	5	76137
Parkwood East	1985	0.18	6	1	76133
Parkwood Hills	1998	8.637	4	5	76137
Patricia Leblanc	1986	15.00	3	1	76132
Paz Hernandez	1977	0.38	2	4	76106
Plover Circle	1918	4.00	7	4	76135
Post Oak Village	1981	6.00	5	3	76040
Quail Ridge	1986	7.33	3	1	76132
Remington Pointe	1999	7.68	7	2	76179
Ridglea Hills	1983	6.10	3	2	76116
River Park	1984	11.63	3	1	76116
River Trails III	1998	4.46	4	3	76118
Rodeo	1971	5.30	2	4	76106
Rosedale Plaza	1969	6.25	5	4	76105
Rosen	1971	8.80	2	4	76106
Rosenthal	1979	1.53	6	1	76133
Ryan Place Triangle	1974	0.27	9	4	76110
Sagamore Hills	1968	4.15	5	4	76103
Sandy Lane	1967	28.7	5	3	76112
Sandybrook	1984	2.92	4	3	76120
Seminary Hills	1968	6.18	9	4	76119
Settlement Plaza	2000	9.44	7	2	76108
Shackleford	1984	10.00	5	4	76119
Silver Sage	1982	10.46	4	5	76137
Smith-Wilemon	1998	3.23	4	3	76112
South Meadows	1998	3.50	6	1	76134

<b>Table V-2 Neighborhood Parks in the Fort Worth Park System...Continued</b>					
<b>Park</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>City Council District</b>	<b>Park Planning District</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
Southcreek	1983	6.30	6	1	76133
Southridge	1988	2.05	6	1	76133
Southside Community Center Park	1993	2.00	8	4	76115
Southwest	1969	1.80	6	1	76133
Springdale	1958	4.00	4	4	76111
Stephens	1984	4.00	3	4	76119
Stone Meadow	2000	4.95	6	1	76123
Stonecreek	2002	10.21	5	3	76040
Stratford	1924	15.00	8	3	76103
Summerbrook	1985	27.27	4	5	76137
Summercreek	1993	0.68	6	1	76123
Summercreek Ranch	2000	5.05	6	1	76123
Summerfields	1978	9.40	4	5	76137
Summerfields Chisholm	1995	4.54	4	5	76137
Summerfields Northwest	1985	4.99	4	5	76137
Sunset	1918	10.00	7	2	76135
Sunset Hills	1960	7.54	4	3	76112
Tadlock	1959	4.50	8	3	76119
Tandy Hills	1960	15.00	8	3	76103
Terry	1970	0.43	2	4	76106
Thomas Place	1970	2.76	7	2	76107
Thorny Ridge	1982	3.76	7	4	76116
Titus Paulsel	1994	7.00	5	4	76105
Trail Lake Estates	2001	2.20	6	1	76133
Van Zandt-Guinn	1984	3.40	8	4	76104
Village Creek	1959	24.31	5	4	76119
Vinca Circle	1918	6.34	7	2	76135
Vinyards at Heritage	2001	44.15	2	5	76248
Wedgwood	1955	6.66	6	1	76133
Westcreek	1971	17.00	6	1	76133
Western Hills	1965	17.89	3	2	76116
Westwind	1981	2.10	3	4	76116
Wildwood	1918	6.00	7	2	76108
William McDonald	1981	13.85	5	4	76119
Willowcreek	1984	8.68	6	1	76134
Windswept Circle	1918	3.00	7	4	76135
Woodland Springs	2001	17.08	2	5	76248
Woodmont	1982	15.00	6	1	76133
Worth Heights	1968	0.58	9	4	76110
Worth Hills	1972	1.50	9	1	76109
Wright Tarlton	1969	0.70	7	2	76107
<b>Total Acreage for Neighborhood Parks</b>		<b>1,680.81</b>			



<b>Table V-3 Community Parks in the Fort Worth Park System</b>					
<b>Park</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>City Council District</b>	<b>Park Planning District</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
Arrow - S	1918	37.80	7	2	76135
Buck Sansom	1927	131.60	2	4	76106
Carter	1951	163.11	8	4	76119
Casino Beach	1918	44.00	7	2	76135
Diamond Hill	1968	9.88	2	4	76106
Greenbriar	1973	48.95	9	4	76119
Hallmark	1963	21.85	6	1	76134
Handley	1948	15.45	5	3	76112
Harmon Field	1952	97.50	8	4	76102
Highland Hills	1968	25.40	8	1	76134
Hillside	1911	24.14	8	4	76104
Lake Como	1950	58.84	7	2	76107
Mallard Cove	2003	66.50	4	3	76120
Marine	1894	12.00	2	4	76106
Marine Creek Lake	1984	69.97	7	2	76135
Marion Sansom	1933	264.00	7	4	76106
North Park	1999	48.64	2	5	76248
Northside	1946	15.00	2	4	76106
Oakland Lake	1927	69.00	8	3	76103
Oakmont	1981	127.17	3	1	76132
Pecan Valley	1962	200.00	3	1	76126
Prairie Dog	1970	39.56	5	4	76119
Quanah Parker	1997	68.00	4	4	76103
Riverside	1974	30.80	2	4	76111
Rockwood	1927	35.41	2	2	76114
Rosemont	1927	30.40	9	4	76119
Southwest Athletic Complex	1998	76.70	6	1	76123
Sylvania	1926	29.22	4	4	76111
Trail Drivers	1928	39.61	2	4	76106
West Park	2001	83.00	7	2	76108
Z-Boaz (South)	1928	134.38	3	4	76126
<b>Total Acreage for Community Parks</b>		<b>2,117.88</b>			

<b>Table V-4 Large Recreation Parks in the Fort Worth Park System</b>					
<b>Park</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>City Council District</b>	<b>Park Planning District</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
Cobb	1926	222.15	8	3	76105
Forest	1910	172.36	9	1	76110
Gateway	1979	498.70	4	4	76111
Heritage	1975	112.00	2	4	76102
Rolling Hills	1971	207.29	8	4	76119
Sycamore	1909	88.02	8	4	76105
Trinity	1892	252.00	9	4	76107
<b>Total Acreage for Large Recreation Parks</b>		<b>1,552.52</b>			

<b>Table V-5 Special Use Parks in the Fort Worth Park System</b>					
<b>Park</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>City Council District</b>	<b>Park Planning District</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
Blue Bonnet Circle	1949	1.25	9	1	76109
Botanic Garden	1892	116.56	7	4	76107
Bunche	1954	2.30	5	4	76119
Burk Burnett	1917	3.03	9	4	76102
Circle	1909	3.06	2	4	76106
City Hall Plaza	1975	2.50	9	4	76102
Diamond Hill H.S.	1982	0.10	2	4	76106
Federal Plaza	1984	0.60	9	4	76102
Fort Woof	2004	5.00	4	4	76111
Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge	1918	3,621.98	7	2	76135
Fort Worth Zoo at Forest Park	1910	58.53	9	1	76110
General Worth Square	1980	1.53	9	4	76102
Goat Island	1918	6.00	7	2	76135
Greer Island	1918	20.00	7	2	76108
Haynes Memorial Triangle	1893	0.10	9	4	76102
Hyde	1873	0.01	9	4	76102
Log Cabin Village	1910	2.50	9	1	76107
Love Circle	1918	50.00	7	2	76135
Meadowbrook Golf Course	1937	138.90	4	3	76112
Paddock	1917	0.80	9	4	76102
Pecan Valley Golf Course	1962	405.00	3	1	76126
Peter Smith	1903	0.10	9	4	76102
Rockwood Golf Course	1927	227.00	2	4	76114
Saunders	1977	0.48	2	4	76106
Stratford Nature Area	1924	35.00	8	3	76103
Sycamore Creek Golf Course	1977	66.22	8	4	76105
Tandy Hills Nature Center	1960	90.25	8	3	76103
Traders Oak	1953	3.28	8	4	76102
Veterans Memorial	1923	0.51	7	2	76107
Water Gardens	1974	5.40	9	4	76102
Wildwood North	1918	116.00	7	2	76108
Will Rogers Memorial Center Complex	1900	32.00	7	4	76107
Z-Boaz (North)	1928	138.30	3	2	76116
<b>Total Acreage for Special Use Parks</b>		<b>5,154.28</b>			

For park locations refer to the park inventory maps included as part the Park Planning District inventories later in this section.



# Park Planning District 1

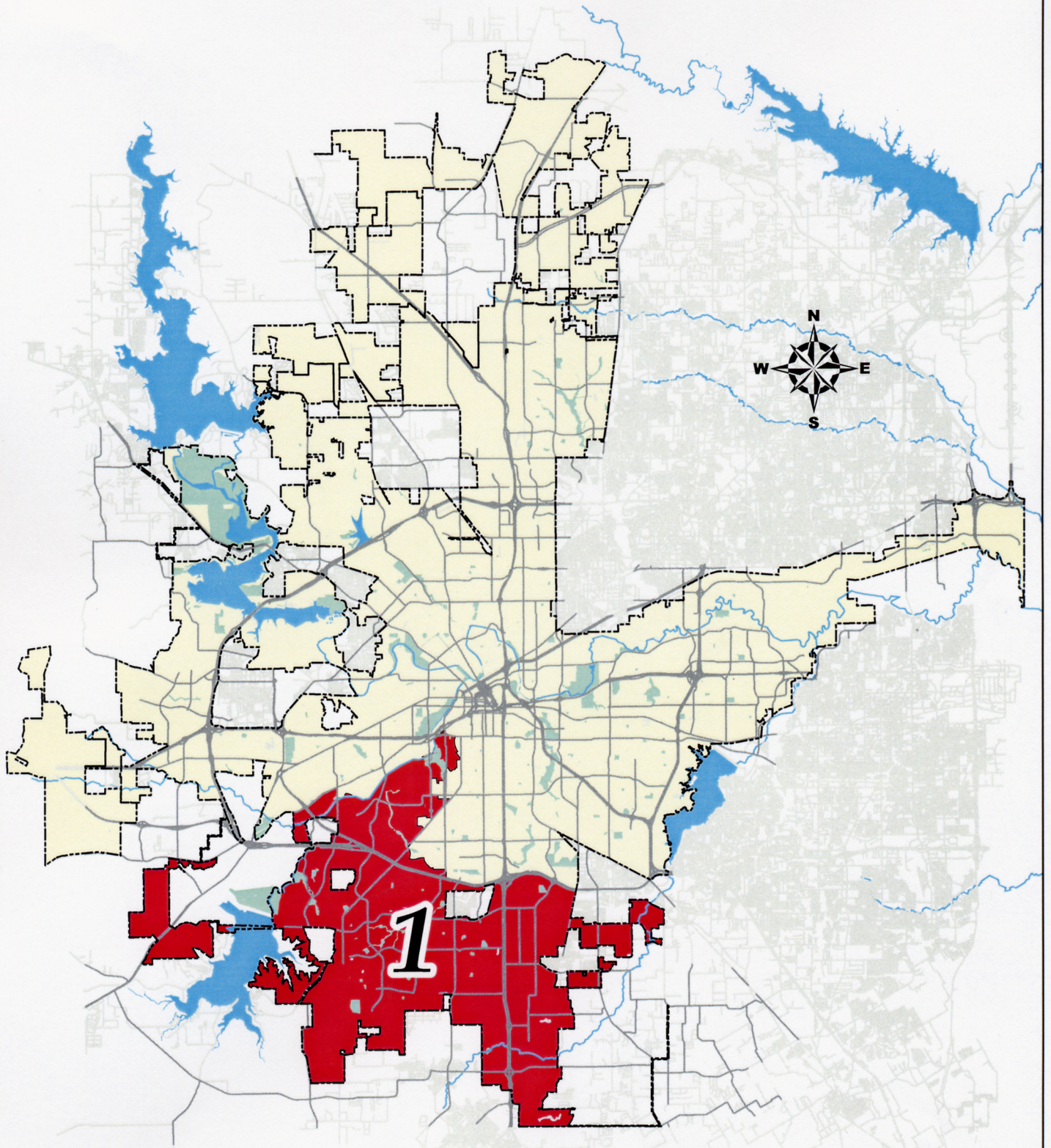




Table V-6 Park Planning District 1 Park Inventory Listing					
	Park	Acreage	Status	Park Address	Zip Code
1	Blue Bonnet Circle	1.25	Act	3489 Bluebonnet Circle	76109
2	Camelot	5.25	Act	1517 Andante Drive	76134
3	Candleridge	108.00	Act	4301 French Lake Drive	76133
4	City View	31.31	Res	7900 Oakmont Boulevard	76132
5	Countryside Addition	0.09	Res	2527 Winding Road	76133
6	Creekside	16.23	Act	3100 Roddy Drive	76123
7	Dabney	3.45	Res	7501 Whirlwind Drive	76133
8	Deer Creek	11.99	Res	11800 Hemphill Street	76036
9	Forest	172.36	Act	1500-2000 Colonial Parkway	76110
10	Fort Worth Zoo at Forest Park	58.53	Act	2727 Zoological Park Drive	76110
11	Foster	11.92	Act	3725 South Drive	76109
12	Fox Run	4.03	Res	8777 Fox Meadow Way	76123
13	Hallmark	21.85	Act	820 Sycamore School Road	76134
14	Highland Hills	25.40	Act	1600 Glasgow Road	76134
15	Hulen Meadows	23.04	Act	3600 Blue Springs Drive	76123
16	Kellis	16.30	Act	4651 Southridge Terrace	76133
17	Kingswood	16.77	Res	7505 Trail Lake Drive	76133
18	Krauss Baker	18.60	Act	3517 Park Lake Drive	76133
19	Lincolnshire	6.45	Act	1425 Horncastle Street	76134
20	Little People	2.90	Act	3431 Walton Avenue	76133
21	Log Cabin Village	2.50	Act	2100 Log Cabin Village Lane	76107
22	Meadows West	17.24	Act	6400 Bellaire Drive South	76132
23	Newby	2.75	Act	1105 Jerome Street	76104
24	Oakmont	127.17	Act	7000 Bellaire Drive South	76132
25	Oakmont Linear	34.88	Res	7785 Bellaire Drive South	76132
26	Overton	48.68	Act	3500 Overton Park Drive East	76109
27	Parkwood East	0.18	Res	7704 Xavier Drive	76133
28	Patricia Leblanc	15.00	Act	6300 Granbury Cut-Off	76132
29	Pecan Valley	200.00	Act	6400 Pecan Valley Drive	76126
30	Pecan Valley Golf Course	405.00	Act	6400 Pecan Valley Drive	76126
31	Quail Ridge	7.33	Act	7451 Dutch Branch Road	76132
32	River Park	11.63	Act	3100 Bryant Irvin Road	76116
33	Rosenthal	1.53	Act	5200 Hastings Drive	76133
34	South Meadows	3.50	Res	2300 Kelton Street	76134
35	Southcreek	6.30	Act	6746 Westcreek Drive	76133
36	Southridge	2.05	Res	3601 Biloxi Drive	76133
37	Southwest	1.80	Act	4320 Altamesa Boulevard	76133
38	Southwest Athletic Complex	76.70	Res	4680 Mcpherson Boulevard	76123
39	Stone Meadow	4.95	Res	4889 Ocean Drive	76123
40	Summercreek	0.68	Act	8212 Rain Dance Court	76123
41	Summercreek Ranch	5.05	Res	8501 Bentwater Lane	76123

Table V-6 Park Planning District 1 Park Inventory Listing...Continued					
	Park	Acreage	Status	Park Address	Zip Code
42	Trail Lake Estates	2.20	Res	7160 Trail Lake Drive	76133
43	Wedgwood	6.66	Act	5309 Winifred Drive	76133
44	Westcreek	17.00	Act	6008 Jennie Drive	76133
45	Willowcreek	8.68	Res	1285 Sycamore School Road	76134
46	Woodmont	15.00	Act	2300 Woodmont Trail	76133
47	Worth Hills	1.50	Act	3301 Benbrook Boulevard	76109

Act = Active - Res = Reserve

Each of the Park Planning District inventory sections includes a table like Table V-8 that list the park name in the second column. The acres (AC) of parkland in the third column and the current development status of the park either active or reserve (Act = Active, Res = Reserve. Active status means the park has been developed to some degree and is open for public recreation. Reserve indicates that the land has been acquired and held until population and use levels warrant development) is in the fourth column. Detailed listings of major facilities are included at the end of each Park Planning District's inventory.

## Park Planning District 1 (PPD 1)

### Boundary Description

PPD 1 is bounded on the north by IH-20, on the south by Alsbury Boulevard, on the east by Dick Price Road and on the west by Markum Ranch Road. However, there are areas that reside above IH-20 and extend northeastward.

### General Description of the Park System

PPD 1 is a collection of relatively new neighborhoods. The majority of the existing neighborhoods have been built since the seventies. Close-to-Home Parks are evenly distributed throughout the district and offer the opportunity to build connections between parks. Significant growth is expected in this PPD over the next five to ten years. There is currently an abundant acreage of undeveloped land in the southeastern portion of this PPD.

### Summary of Facilities in PPD 1

There are currently thirty-seven (37) Neighborhood, five (5) Community, one (1) Large Recreation and four (4) Special Use Parks in PPD 1. The average park size in this PPD is approximately 34 acres. Refer to **Table V-11** for a listing of major facilities by active park site.

## Community Centers

PPD 1 is served by two community centers, the Southwest Community Center, located in Southwest Park and Highland Hills Community Center, located in Highland Hills Park. Some typical neighborhood and City-wide programs and activities offered at these facilities include sports tournaments, senior activities and cultural programs. Based on a projected growth rate of 12.87% for this PPD over the next five years, additional community center facilities and programs will be needed.

The youth respondents of the 2004 Needs Assessment stated they felt safe (90%), the facilities were clean (79%) and they received good customer service (79%) at these area community centers.

## Demographic Information

Significant growth is expected in PPD 1 over the next 10 years. There is currently an abundant acreage of undeveloped land in this southwestern area of the City. This is the second fastest growing PPD population in the City. Only PPD 4 has a faster growth rate.

PPD 1	Percent Increase	Population Projection
1990 Population	-	69,281
1995 Population*	9.84%	76,098
<b>2000 Population*</b>	-	<b>125,279</b>
2005 Population	12.87%	141,402
2010 Population	3.29%	146,054
*Changes in population from 1995 onward are due to restructuring from eight to five Park Planning Districts.		

Incomes in PPD 1 are evenly distributed. The majority of the population in this area has a family income over \$50,000.

Table V-7 2000 FAMILY INCOME DISTRIBUTION PPD 1					
LESS THAN \$20,000	\$20,000 TO \$24,999	\$25,000 TO \$34,999	\$35,000 TO \$49,999	\$50,000 TO \$99,999	\$100,000 AND OVER
10.16%	4.11%	10.37%	16.11%	37.98%	21.27%

The average number of persons per household is slightly less than the City-wide average of 2.63. The number of family households and the number of households with children under 18 fall in the mid range when compared to the other Park Planning Districts.

Table V-8 2000 FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS PPD 1	
Total Households	48,472
Average Persons per Household	2.45
Households with Persons Under 18	25.81%

<b>Table V-9 2000 AGE DISTRIBUTION PPD 1</b>									
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Under 12</b>	<b>12 to 18</b>	<b>19 to 24</b>	<b>25 to 29</b>	<b>30 to 39</b>	<b>40 to 49</b>	<b>50 to 59</b>	<b>60 to 69</b>	<b>70 and Older</b>
100.00%	16.05%	9.76%	10.81%	7.82%	15.09%	15.10%	10.59%	6.02%	8.78%

PPD 1 is a predominately white, moderate to high income district with a relatively even distribution of age ranges in the adult population.

<b>Table V-10 2000 Ethnicity PPD 1</b>	
White	66.47%
African American	15.89%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.46%
Asian	2.81%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0.07%
Other	0.12%
Two or more races	1.70%
Hispanic or Latino	12.47%

### **Key Features or Opportunities**

**Pecan Valley Park** - Located in far southwest Fort Worth next to Pecan Valley Golf Course and at the base of Lake Benbrook Dam. It is the site of the former state Champion Bur Oak. The park has the Trinity River running inside and canoes may be launched from this location. No swimming is allowed and it is recommended that small children wear life jackets. Fishing is allowed; a license may be required to do so.

**Pecan Valley Golf Course** - Pecan Valley Golf Course is a 36-hole facility located in the southwest part of the City with a fully equipped pro shop, snack shop and driving range. A large shaded patio provides tournaments and groups a perfect place to hold their post-event festivities. Renovated in 2001, the “River” Course is considered one of the top municipal courses in the state of Texas. It was designed to appeal to golfers of all abilities and has four sets of tees that measure 6,609 yards from the Championship tees to 4,751 yards from the



Forward tees. The course features rolling terrain, strategically bunkered greens and fairways, water features and mature oak and pecan trees. It is not only visually stimulating but challenging and fun to play. The “Hills” Course is approximately 150 yards shorter than the River Course. Several hundred trees have been planted and are just beginning to mature which have improved playing conditions and challenges golfers of all abilities. It has several target greens, a practice sand trap, and is capable of servicing approximately twenty patrons at a time.

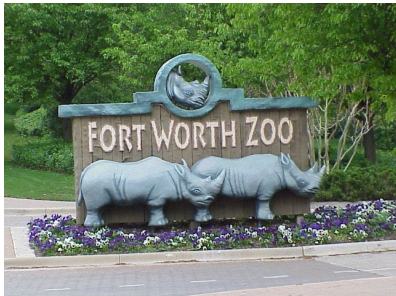


**Candleridge Park** - Located in southwest Fort Worth in the Candleridge area near Southwest High School and Woodway Elementary, this park is a favorite of many residents. Set against French Lake, this park encompasses 108 acres containing recently replaced hike/bike/walk paths/trails complete with recently renovated playgrounds, seating areas and bridge crossings. During our Texas summers, you may catch a glimpse of the Boy Scouts canoeing on French Lake.

**Forest Park** - Located south of I-30 and University Drive and north of Texas Christian University (TCU), this park has three parts. Fishing is allowed but a license may be needed and it is recommended small children wear a life jacket. The park features a train ride that goes north to Trinity Park for a five mile round trip. Hike/bike/walk trails go in three different directions from this park. An Olympic size swimming pool is located on the east side of the park and is host to the TCU swim team. Soccer fields are located on the west side of the park and the Fort Worth Zoo is at its center.



**Fort Worth Zoo** - the Fort Worth Zoo was established in 1909 with one lion, two bear cubs, an alligator, a coyote, a peacock and a few rabbits. Today the Zoo is home to over 5,000 animals and is ranked as a top zoo by *Family Life Magazine*, the *Los Angeles Times* and *USA Today* and as one of the top zoos in the South by *Southern Living Reader's Choice Awards*. The Zoo showcases creatures from around the world in natural habitat exhibits. The Zoo supports more than fifteen conservation projects around the globe. In the summer of 2001, the TEXAS WILD! Exhibit opened which features native animals in their natural habitat. The Zoo is located just north of Texas Christian University, across from the Colonial Country Club and south of University Drive and I-30.



**Log Cabin Village** - A stroll down a tree-shaded lane in Forest Park brings you to a cluster of seven log homes built in the area in the 1800s. You step back into time when you enter this park. The past is brought vividly to life as pioneers interpret the historic displays, spin settler's tales and demonstrate handicrafts. You can actually see how settlers once lived, how they cooked their meals, took care of their horses, made candles and grew their own gardens. Completing the village setting is a reproduction of a Black Smith Shop. Children can attend the Prairie School while learning how teachers taught over 100 years ago. The Department recently acquired the Marine School House built in 1872 and served residents north of Downtown. The one-room schoolhouse is being restored and included as an interpretive exhibit on earl education. The park is located across from the Zoo and north of Texas Christian University.



**Table V-11 Park Planning District 1 Listing of Major Park Facilities**

<b>Parks</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Playground</b>	<b>Shelter</b>	<b>Softball / Baseball Practice Field</b>	<b>Softball / Baseball Competition Field</b>	<b>Soccer Practice Field</b>	<b>Soccer Competition Field</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>Tennis Court</b>	<b>Pool</b>	<b>Trail</b>	<b>Multi-Use Slab</b>	<b>Golf</b>	<b>Volleyball</b>
Blue Bonnet Circle	1.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Camelot	5.25	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		1	0	0
Candleridge	108.00	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Creekside	16.23	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	*	0	0	0
Forest	172.36	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	*	0	0	0
Fort Worth Zoo at Forest Park	58.53	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Foster	11.92	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	*	1	0	0
Hallmark	21.85	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0		0	0	0
Highland Hills	25.40	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	*	1	0	1
Hulen Meadows	23.04	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Kellis	16.30	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1		1	0	0
Krauss Baker	18.60	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	*	1	0	0
Lincolnshire	6.45	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Little People	2.90	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Log Cabin Village	2.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Meadows West	17.24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Newby	2.75	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Oakmont	127.17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Overton	48.68	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	*	0	0	0
Patricia Leblanc	15.00	2	2	2	0	2	0	1	2	0	*	1	0	0
Pecan Valley	200.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Pecan Valley Golf Course	405.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1	0
Quail Ridge	7.33	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
River Park	11.63	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Rosenthal	1.53	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		2	0	0
Southcreek	6.30	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Southwest	1.80	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Summercreek	0.68	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Wedgwood	6.66	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0		0	0	0
Westcreek	17.00	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	*	2	0	0
Woodmont	15.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Worth Hills	1.50	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
<b>Total Major Park Facilities in PPD 1</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Acreage of Active Park Sites	1,375.85													



# Park Planning District 2

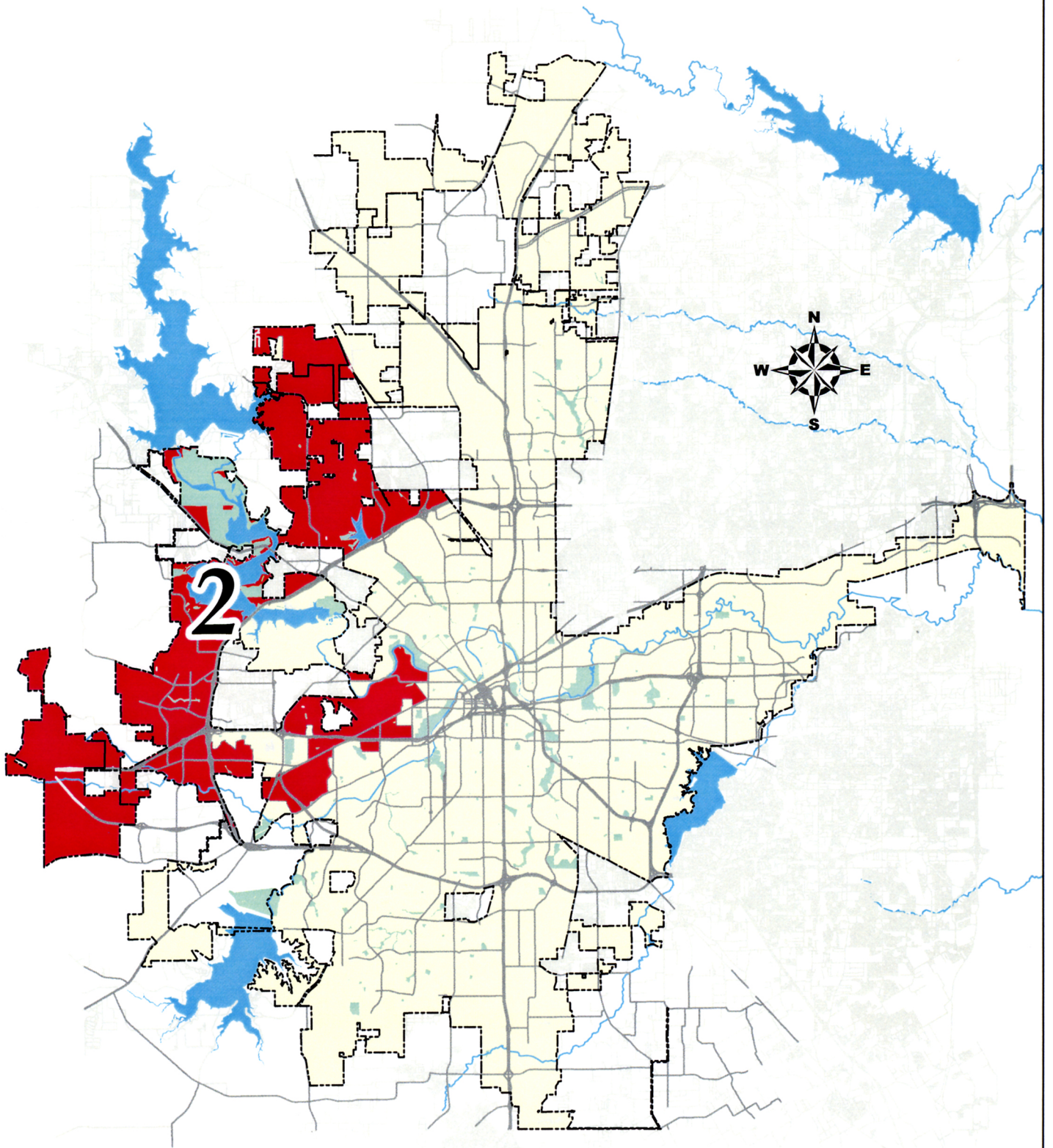


Table V-12 Park Planning District 2 Park Inventory Listing					
	Park	Acreage	Status	Park Address	Zip Code
1	Anderson	15.22	Res	5052 Cromwell-Marine Creek Rd	76179
2	Arrow - S	37.80	Act	7951 Cahoba Drive	76135
3	Camp Joy	8.23	Act	9621 Watercress Drive	76108
4	Casino Beach	44.00	Act	7451 Watercress Drive	76135
5	Crestwood	2.00	Act	3701 Rockwood Park Drive	76114
6	Eagle Mountain Ranch	4.32	Act	7200 Bunk House Drive	76179
7	Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge	3,621.98	Act	9601 Fossil Ridge Road	76135
8	Freemons	17.00	Act	9850 Heron Drive	76108
9	George Markos	29.69	Act	400 Academy Boulevard	76108
10	Goat Island	6.00	Act	8298 Malaga Drive	76135
11	Greer Island	20.00	Act	7700 Shoreline Road	76108
12	Island View	14.00	Act	8401 Watercress Drive	76135
13	J.T. Hinkle	5.99	Res	6521 Shadeydell Drive	76135
14	Lake Como	58.84	Act	3401 Lake Como Drive	76107
15	Live Oak	7.85	Res	2300 Silver Creek Road	76108
16	Love Circle	50.00	Act	7400 Jacksboro Highway	76135
17	Malaga	2.00	Act	7500 Malaga Drive	76135
18	Marina	5.00	Res	4033 Marina Drive	76135
19	Marine Creek Lake	69.97	Res	4700 Huffines Boulevard	76135
20	Mary and Marvin Leonard	6.53	Act	6478 Genoa Road	76127
21	Monticello	4.24	Act	3505 Dorothy Lane North	76107
22	Morris Berney	4.50	Act	6312 Rosemont Avenue	76116
23	Mosque Point	80.00	Act	8375 Cahoba Drive	76135
24	Remington Pointe	7.68	Res	6050 Western Pass	76179
25	Ridglea Hills	6.10	Act	4589 Stonedale Road	76116
26	Rockwood	35.41	Act	701 North University Drive	76114
27	Settlement Plaza	9.44	Res	9745 Francesca Drive	76108
28	Sunset	10.00	Act	8855 Watercress Drive	76135
29	Thomas Place	2.76	Act	4201 Lafayette Avenue	76107
30	Veterans Memorial	0.51	Act	4120 Camp Bowie Boulevard	76107
31	Vinca Circle	6.34	Act	7800 Malaga Drive	76135
32	West Park	83.00	Res	8787 Heron Drive	76108
33	Western Hills	17.89	Act	8850 Chapin Road	76116
34	Wildwood	6.00	Act	9849 Watercress Drive	76108
35	Wildwood North	116.00	Res	9900 Watercress Drive	76108
36	Wright Tarlton	0.70	Act	4725 Byers Avenue	76107
37	Z-Boaz (North)	138.30	Act	3200 Lackland Road	76116

Act = Active - Res = Reserve

## **Park Planning District 2 (PPD 2)**

### **Boundary Description**

PPD 2 is bounded on the north by Bonds Ranch Road, on the south by Aledo Road, on the east primarily by West Loop 820 and on the west by Farmer Road/F.M. 1187. However there is an area of PPD 2 that resides within Loop 820 and stretches up to touch the southern most tip of Trinity Park.

### **General Description of the Park System**

Lake Worth is part of the City's water supply system and affords the citizens numerous opportunities for water based recreation activities such as boating, swimming and fishing. The concentration of park acreage around this body of water is a critical asset to the park system and the City. These parks are isolated from the population of the City by distance and the physical barrier of Loop 820. The average park size in PPD 2 is 123 acres due to the fact that the 3,622 acre Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge is located in this PPD.

### **Summary of Facilities in PPD 2**

PPD 2 has twenty-four (24) Neighborhood, six (6) Community, and seven (7) Special Use parks. Refer to Table V-17 for a listing of major facilities by active park site.

### **Community Centers**

PPD 2 is served by one (1) community center, the Thomas Place Community Center. Typical neighborhood events held at this community center include arts and crafts for holiday events, cultural celebrations and even a winter carnival.

Youth survey respondents of the 2004 Needs Assessment Study revealed that our community centers are clean (79%), they receive good customer service (74%) and they feel safe at our facility (68%).

### **Demographic Information**

This PPD has seen little growth in the nineties largely due to the fact that the district is. Growth projections in the early nineties predicted that this area of the City would actually lose population. The populated majority of this PPD is at the heart of the area known as the Central City. Concerted efforts have been made by the City to revitalize this area with neighborhood redevelopment, in-fill housing, and infrastructure replacement. The City Council has directed departments to make these Central City neighborhoods a priority in Capital Improvement Programs and any other initiatives planned for the future of the City.

<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>Percent Increase</b>	<b>Population Projection</b>
1990 Population	-	80,711
1995 Population*	2.62%	82,826
<b>2000 Population*</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>74,630</b>
2005 Population	16.12%	85,591
2010 Population	10.68%	94,732
*Changes in population from 1995 onward are due to restructuring from eight to five Park Planning Districts.		

In addition the Needs Assessment indicates that residents feel that parks and open space contribute to quality of life and neighborhood revitalization (refer to Section VI: Needs Assessment and Identification). Neighborhood parks and community parks can serve as part of the neighborhood revitalization that contributes to improving the quality of life in areas such as PPD 2.

<b>Table V-13 2000 FAMILY INCOME DISTRIBUTION PPD 2</b>					
<b>LESS THAN \$20,000</b>	<b>\$20,000 TO \$24,999</b>	<b>\$25,000 TO \$34,999</b>	<b>\$35,000 TO \$49,999</b>	<b>\$50,000 TO \$99,999</b>	<b>\$100,000 AND OVER</b>
15.99%	4.22%	11.90%	19.58%	31.72%	16.59%

A significant portion of the households (24.99%) in this PPD have children under the age of 18. In addition, the average household size (2.34) in this area of the city is slightly lower than the 2000 City average of 2.63 persons per household.

<b>Table V-14 2000 FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS PPD 2</b>	
Total Households	33,285
Average Persons Per Household	2.34
Households with Persons under 18	24.99%

2000 population data for PPD 2 shows a high percentage of the population under age 12. This is consistent with the household data for PPD 2 indicating there is a large youth population to be served in this PPD.

<b>Table V-15 2000 AGE DISTRIBUTION PPD 2</b>									
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Under 12</b>	<b>12 to 18</b>	<b>19 to 24</b>	<b>25 to 29</b>	<b>30 to 39</b>	<b>40 to 49</b>	<b>50 to 59</b>	<b>60 to 69</b>	<b>70 and Older</b>
100.00%	17.11%	7.88%	8.60%	8.75%	16.21%	15.14%	11.42%	6.35%	8.53%

Table V-18 indicates that PPD 2 is predominantly populated by a White demographic (72.46%). The combination of demographic indicators presented indicates there are typically average family sizes, with moderate to high family incomes in an area with a low minority population.



<b>Table V-16 2000 Ethnicity PPD 2</b>	
White	72.46%
African American	7.56%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.64%
Asian	2.44%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0.14%
Other	0.05%
Two or more races	1.97%
Hispanic or Latino	14.74%

## **Key Features or Opportunities**

**Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge** - Located on the shores of Lake Worth, this is a nature lover's retreat. Step back 150 years as you explore the Texas wilderness that greeted the first pioneers. Discover native wildlife and plants, including buffalo, white-tailed deer and Texas wildflowers as you explore twenty-five miles of trails. Nature programs, maps, interpretive exhibits and a library can be found at the Hardwicke Interpretive Center. Classes are held on the weekends and during the summer on the wildlife and flowers you will see on the 3,622 acre park. A master plan for the Nature Center and Refuge



was completed in 2003.

**Rockwood Park** - Located on the back side and south of the golf course, this park is on the Trinity River. It houses a large sports complex as well as lighted softball competition fields, soccer fields and t-ball fields for the little tykes. Major renovations have been completed at this park. Fishing is allowed but a license may be required and it is recommended that small children wear a life jacket. No swimming is allowed. The Trinity River Bike Trail north branch starts at this park going south to downtown Fort Worth all the way to Lake Benbrook.

**Rockwood Golf Course** - A 27-hole facility located in the near northeast part of the City with a full range of golfing amenities. Rockwood currently plays as an 18-hole regulation course called "The Rock" course with an additional nine holes called "The Trinity" course. The Rock is a par 70 and plays to 6,350 yards from the Championship tees, and 5,719 yards from the forward tees. There are just a handful of bunkers sprinkled throughout the course and although somewhat short, the facility is a great example of the old style golf course architecture. The Trinity is a very challenging nine holes to play. This nine is a par 36 and stretches 3,557 yards from the Championship tees. The contoured greens add to the natural playing challenge. It boasts one of the longest holes in the State of Texas. The par 5 hole measures 667 yards from the tips and borders along the Trinity River. The clubhouse includes a golf shop and snack shop with inside seating. A remote driving range is also available.



**Table V-17 Park Planning District 2 Listing of Major Park Facilities**

<b>Parks</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Playground</b>	<b>Shelter</b>	<b>Softball/Baseball Practice Field</b>	<b>Softball/Baseball Competition Field</b>	<b>Soccer Practice Field</b>	<b>Soccer Competition Field</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>Tennis Court</b>	<b>Pool</b>	<b>Trail</b>	<b>Multi-Use Slab</b>	<b>Golf</b>	<b>Volleyball</b>
Arrow - S	37.80	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Camp Joy	8.23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Casino Beach	44.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Crestwood	2.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Eagle Mountain Ranch	4.32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge	3,621.98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Freemons	17.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
George Markos	29.69	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Goat Island	6.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Greer Island	20.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Island View	14.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Lake Como	58.84	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	1		2	0	0
Love Circle	50.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Malaga	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Mary and Marvin Leonard	6.53	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Monticello	4.24	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		1	0	0
Morris Berney	4.50	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Mosque Point	80.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Ridglea Hills	6.10	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0		1	0	0
Rockwood	35.41	1	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Sunset	10.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Thomas Place	2.76	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0		2	0	0
Veterans Memorial	0.51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Vinca Circle	6.34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Western Hills	17.89	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0		0	0	0
Wildwood	6.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Wright Tarlton	0.70	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0		1	0	0
Z-Boaz (North)	138.30	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1	0
<b>Total Major Park Facilities in PPD 2</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Acreage of Active Park Sites	4,235.14													



# Park Planning District 3

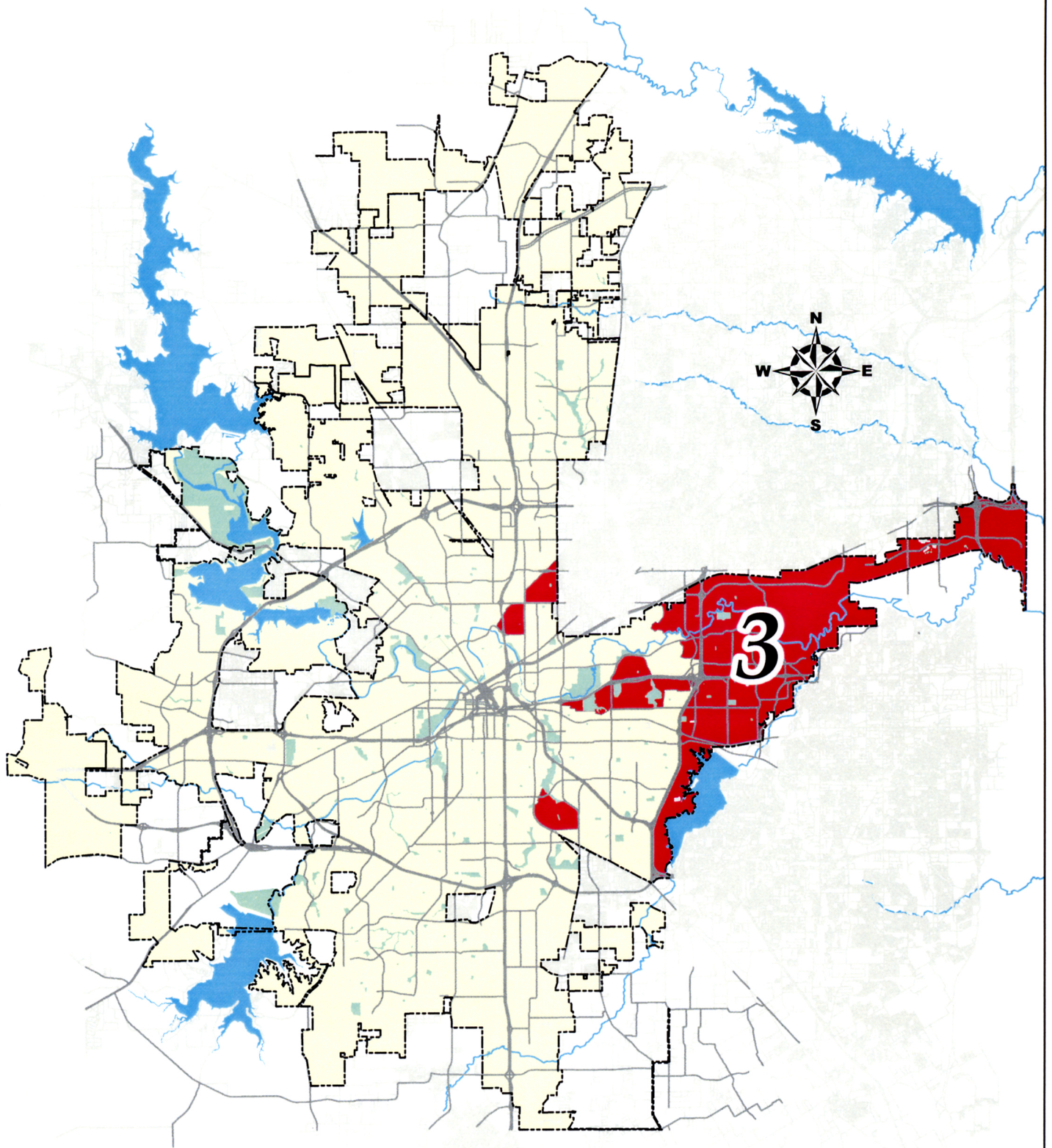


Table V-18 Park Planning District 3 Park Inventory Listing					
	Park	Acreage	Status	Park Address	Zip Code
1	Bonnie Brae	3.70	Act	3213 Wesley Street	76111
2	Cobb	222.15	Act	1600-3000 Cobb Drive	76105
3	Cobblestone Trail	23.76	Act	7601 John T. White	76120
4	Eastbrook	3.20	Act	2728 Escalante Avenue	76112
5	Ederville	0.91	Act	1455 Nottingham Boulevard	76112
6	Ellis	10.51	Act	3400 S. Riverside Drive	76119
7	Eugene McCray Park at Lake Arlington	6.07	Act	3449 Quail Road	76119
8	Handley	15.45	Act	6201 Beaty Street	76112
9	Mallard Cove	66.50	Res	375 Shadow Grass Avenue	76120
10	Meadowbrook Golf Course	138.90	Act	1815 Jensen Road	76112
11	Oakhurst	0.75	Act	2400 Daisy Lane	76111
12	Oakland Lake	69.00	Act	1645 Lake Shore Drive	76103
13	Post Oak Village	6.00	Res	3830 Post Oak Boulevard	76040
14	River Trails III	4.46	Res	8570 San Joaquin Trail	76118
15	Sandy Lane	28.70	Act	2001 Sandy Lane	76112
16	Sandybrook	2.92	Act	7049 Greenview Circle North	76120
17	Smith-Wilemon	3.23	Act	925 Willow Ridge Road	76112
18	Stonecreek	10.21	Res	12801 Sweet Bay Drive	76040
19	Stratford	15.00	Act	4057 Meadowbrook Drive	76103
20	Stratford Nature Area	35.00	Act	3520 East Freeway	76103
21	Sunset Hills	7.54	Act	7017 Ellis Road	76112
22	Tadlock	4.50	Act	4665 Eastline Drive	76119
23	Tandy Hills	15.00	Act	3325 View Street	76103
24	Tandy Hills Nature Center	90.25	Act	3325 View Street	76103

## PARK PLANNING DISTRICT 3 (PPD 3)

### Boundary Description

PPD 3 is bounded on the north by SH-121/Airport Freeway, on the south by IH-20, on the east by the City of Arlington and on the west by East Loop 820. However, there are four separate areas that reside within Loop 820 and are within PPD 4's general boundary description.

### General Description of the Park System

The dominant natural feature of PPD 3 is the West Fork of the Trinity River. The river corridor in this district provides the opportunity to link the Central City with the open space system of North Central Texas. When a trail connection is made, the Fort Worth portion of the Trinity Trail System will connect to the larger trail system that is currently planned to extend for 250 miles and traverse four counties and eighteen municipalities.

### Summary of Facilities in PPD 3

PPD 3 has a good distribution of park facilities and an average park size of approximately thirty-three (33) acres. PPD 3 has eighteen (18) Neighborhood, two (2) Community, one (1) Large Recreation and three (3) Special Use parks. Refer to Table V-25 for a listing of major facilities by active park site.

### Community Centers

PPD 3 has one (1) community center, the Handley-Meadowbrook Community Center. Handley-Meadowbrook provides service to the southeastern section of the PPD. Typical services and neighborhood events held at this center include cultural and children's programs. As the population continues to grow to the east, additional community center facilities may be needed. 2004 Needs Assessment youth survey respondents stated our community center facilities are clean (90%), they receive good customer service (90%) and they feel safe there.

### Demographic Information

PPD 3 has experienced a 7.1% increase in population in the nineties. This district is a combination of older Central City neighborhoods and newly developing areas on the east side of the district. It is likely that this moderate growth trend will continue over the next five years as the eastern portion of the City, which has a large quantity of vacant land available for development, begins to develop.

PPD 3	Percent Increase	Population Projection
1990 Population	-	83,082
1995 Population*	4.81%	87,076
<b>2000 Population*</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,048</b>
2005 Population	7.58%	62,448
2010 Population	38.72%	86,628
*Changes in population from 1995 onward are due to restructuring from eight to five Park Planning Districts.		

The western portion of PPD 3 inside Loop 820 consists of Central City. This is indicated by the 11.53% of households with a family income under \$20,000.

Table V-19 2000 FAMILY INCOME DISTRIBUTION PPD 3					
LESS THAN \$20,000	\$20,000 TO \$24,999	\$25,000 TO \$34,999	\$35,000 TO \$49,999	\$50,000 TO \$99,999	\$100,000 AND OVER
11.53%	4.50%	11.98%	20.43%	39.92%	11.63%

This area of the City has a low number of average persons per household compared to the City-wide average of 2.63 persons. This, combined with a moderate percentage (25.49%) of households with children under 18 indicates an aging empty nest population.

<b>Table V-20 2000 FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS PPD 3</b>	
Total Households	24,754
Average Persons per Household	2.43
Households with Persons Under 18	25.49%

Census 2000 population data for PPD 3 show a high percentage of the population under the age of 12 indicating a large youth population to be served.

<b>Table V-21 2000 AGE DISTRIBUTION PPD 3</b>									
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Under 12</b>	<b>12 to 18</b>	<b>19 to 24</b>	<b>25 to 29</b>	<b>30 to 39</b>	<b>40 to 49</b>	<b>50 to 59</b>	<b>60 to 69</b>	<b>70 and Older</b>
100.00%	17.13%	7.09%	11.66%	12.72%	18.25%	10.53%	7.01%	7.37%	8.24%

PPD 3 is predominantly White (50.22%) with a slightly higher than average minority population.

<b>Table V-22 2000 Ethnicity PPD 3</b>	
White	50.22%
African American	31.30%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.41%
Asian	4.41%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0.06%
Other	0.09%
Two or more races	1.82%
Hispanic or Latino	11.69%

### **Key Features or Opportunities**

**Cobblestone Trail Park** - located on the far east side of Fort Worth. This neighborhood park sits in close proximity to an elementary school. It hosts a variety of playground amenities along with a fitness trail and station. An additional highlight of this park is its softball/baseball and soccer practice fields.

**Tandy Hills Park and Nature Area** - located on the east side of Fort Worth between Beach Street and Oakland Boulevard. This park is a hiking park with numerous trails. It is a nature lovers retreat. It has a playground at the west end of the area and is adjacent to Stratford Nature Trail, Stratford Park, and Tandy Hills Nature Trails.

**Meadowbrook Golf Course** - An 18-hole championship facility located on the east side of the City with a fully equipped pro shop and snack shop. Considered one of the top twenty-five municipal golf courses in the State of Texas, this par 71 course plays to a length of 6,363 yards from the Championship tees, and play from the Forward tees is an even 5,000 yards. Meadowbrook has the most rolling terrain of the City's five golf courses. With dramatic elevation changes and a creek that meanders through the property, Meadowbrook will test your game and is visually a treat as the course winds through the multi-acre tract. The course rates as the most popular of the City's facilities, a testament to its value to the golfing community.

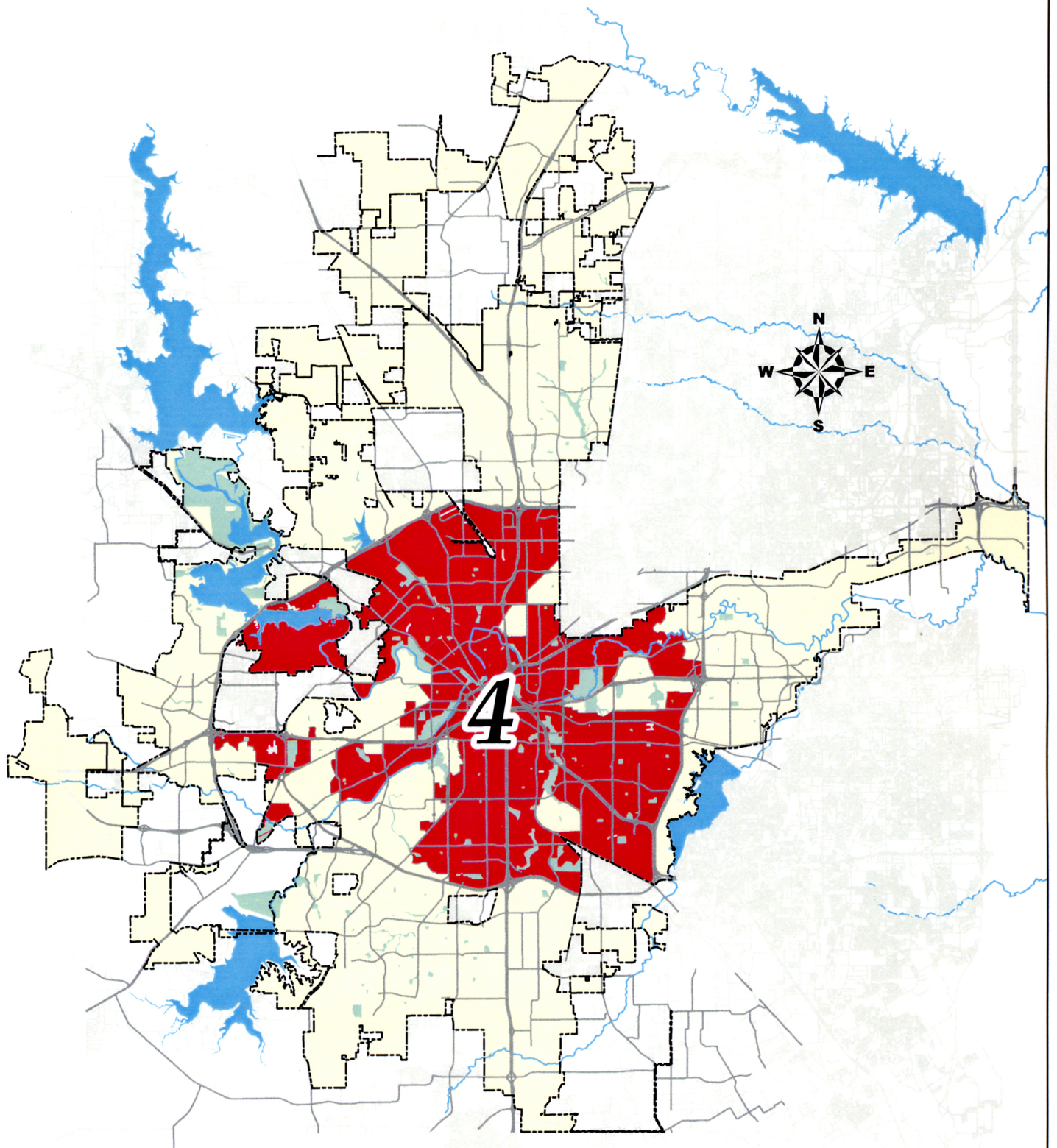
**Eugene McCray Park at Lake Arlington** - Lake Arlington is a major natural resource in this area of Fort Worth. This six-acre park is also home to a community center offering a variety of programming as well as picnic shelter facilities. Eugene McCray Park has recently undergone some much-needed renovations such as newly constructed boat ramps and floating docks, as well as parking improvements. This resource provides significant water based recreation opportunities for the residents of the east side.





Table V-23 Park Planning District 3 Listing of Major Park Facilities														
Parks	Acres	Playground	Shelter	Softball/Baseball Practice Field	Softball/Baseball Competition Field	Soccer Practice Field	Soccer Competition Field	Basketball	Tennis Court	Pool	Trail	Multi-Use Slab	Golf	Volleyball
Bonnie Brae	3.70	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	*	1	0	0
Cobb	222.15	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0		4	0	0
Cobblestone Trail	23.76	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Eastbrook	3.20	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Ederville	0.91	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Ellis	10.51	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Eugene McCray Park at Lake Arlington	6.07	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Handley	15.45	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0		1	0	0
Meadowbrook Golf Course	138.90	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1	0
Oakhurst	0.75	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Oakland Lake	69.00	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	*	0	0	1
Sandy Lane	28.70	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0		1	0	1
Sandybrook	2.92	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Smith-Wilemon	3.23	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Stratford	15.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Stratford Nature Area	35.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Sunset Hills	7.54	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Tadlock	4.50	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		1	0	0
Tandy Hills	15.00	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Tandy Hills Nature Center	90.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Total Major Park Facilities in PPD 3		17	10	1	4	3	1	9	6	0	3	10	1	2
Acreage of Active Park Sites	696.54													

# Park Planning District 4



**Table V-24 Park Planning District 4 Park Inventory Listing**

	<b>Park</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Park Address</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
1	Anderson-Campbell	11.49	Res	4141 Ohio Garden Road	76114
2	Arneson	0.44	Act	1311 Homan Avenue	76106
3	Arnold	1.62	Act	700 Samuels Avenue	76102
4	Botanic Garden	116.56	Act	2000 University Drive	76107
5	Buck Sansom	131.60	Act	3600 Sansom Park Drive	76106
6	Bunche	2.30	Res	5488 Ramey Avenue	76119
7	Burk Burnett	3.03	Act	501 W 7th Street	76102
8	Capps	4.41	Act	907 West Berry	76110
9	Carter	163.11	Act	4351 Carter Park Drive	76119
10	Chamberlin	6.72	Act	4689 Halloram Street	76107
11	Circle	3.06	Act	600 Park Street	76106
12	City Hall Plaza	2.50	Act	1000 Throckmorton Stret	76102
13	Como Community Center Park	1.20	Act	4900 Horne Street	76107
14	Daggett	3.40	Act	2312 College Avenue	76110
15	Delga	4.06	Act	1001 Nixon Street	76102
16	Diamond Hill	9.88	Act	3709 Weber Street	76106
17	Diamond Hill H.S.	0.10	Act	1411 Maydell Street	76106
18	Eastern Hills	3.00	Act	5900 Yosemite Drive	76112
19	Eastover	13.50	Act	4300 Ramey Avenue	76105
20	Echo Lake	4.00	Res	1000 Echo Lake Drive	76110
21	Ed K. Collett	7.69	Act	4800 West Vickery	76107
22	Elm Street	0.28	Res	400 Elm Street	76102
23	Englewood	1.06	Act	3200 Hanger Avenue	76105
24	Eugene McCray Community Center Park	3.00	Act	4932 Wilbarger Street	76119
25	Fairfax	4.00	Act	4000 East Fairfax Avenue	76119
26	Fairmount	0.68	Act	1501 5th Avenue	76104
27	Far Northside	3.44	Act	2950 Roosevelt Avenue	76106
28	Federal Plaza	0.60	Act	1000 Throckmorton Street	76102
29	Fire Station Community Center	1.70	Act	1601 Lipscomb Street	76110
30	Fort Woof	5.00	Act	751 Beach Street	76111
31	Gateway	503.70	Act	751 Beach Street	76111
32	General Worth Square	1.53	Act	916 Main Street	76102
33	Gid Hooper	1.24	Act	814 Retta Street	76111
34	Glenwood	35.66	Act	900 S. Riverside Drive	76104
35	Goodman	0.14	Act	5413 Goodman Avenue	76107
36	Greenbriar	48.95	Act	5200 Hemphill Street	76119
37	Greenway	13.50	Act	2013 East Belknap Street	76102
38	Hall-Tandy Triangle	0.32	Act	2901 E. Rosedale	76105
39	Harmon Field	97.50	Act	1501 Martin Luther King Freeway	76102
40	Harrold	2.30	Act	1502 Summit	76102
41	Harvey Street	0.66	Act	1413 Harvey Street	76104



**Table V-24 Park Planning District 4 Park Inventory Listing...Continued**

	<b>Park</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Park Address</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
42	Haynes Memorial Triangle	0.10	Act	1701 Main Street	76102
43	Heritage	112.00	Act	300 N. Main/600 Congress Street	76102
44	Hillside	24.14	Act	1201 E. Maddox Avenue	76104
45	Hyde	0.01	Act	201 West 9th Street	76102
46	Jefferson Davis	6.50	Act	4001 Townsend/2000 W. Bolt St.	76110
47	Jennings -May-St. Louis	0.85	Act	3041 South Jennings Avenue	76110
48	Lincoln	7.00	Act	2922 Lincoln Avenue	76106
49	Linwood	4.00	Act	301 Wimberly Street	76107
50	Littlejohn	0.83	Act	4125 Littlejohn Avenue	76105
51	Louella Bales Baker	0.96	Act	3101 E 1st Street	76111
52	Maddox	0.96	Act	2414 Gould Avenue	76106
53	Marie F. Pate	5.00	Act	3751 South Edgewood Terrace	76119
54	Marine	12.00	Act	303 Nw 20th Street	76106
55	Marine Creek Linear	48.00	Act	3106 Angle Avenue	76106
56	Marine Creek Linear North	7.83	Act	3317 Chestnut Avenue	76106
57	Marion Sansom	264.00	Act	2501 Roberts Cut-Off Road	76106
58	Martin Luther King	5.78	Act	5565 Truman Drive	76112
59	Meadowood	1.75	Act	2800 Meadowbrook Drive	76103
60	Morningside Middle School	2.41	Act	2751 Mississippi Avenue	76104
61	Normandy Place	1.50	Act	3421 Panola Avenue	76103
62	Northside	15.00	Act	1100 Nw 18th Street	76106
63	Paddock	0.80	Act	100 West Belknap Street	76102
64	Paz Hernandez	0.38	Act	3515 Ellis Avenue	76106
65	Peter Smith	0.10	Act	901 Jennings Avenue	76102
66	Plover Circle	4.00	Act	7251 Cahoba Drive	76135
67	Prairie Dog	39.56	Act	5060 Parker Henderson Road	76119
68	Quanah Parker	68.00	Act	5401 Randol Mill Road	76103
69	Riverside	30.80	Act	501 Oakhurst Scenic Drive	76111
70	Rockwood Golf Course	227.00	Act	1851 Jacksboro Highway	76114
71	Rodeo	5.30	Act	2605 North Houston Street	76106
72	Rolling Hills	207.29	Act	2525 Joe B. Rushing Road	76119
73	Rosedale Plaza	6.25	Act	5200 East Rosedale Street	76105
74	Rosemont	30.40	Act	1400 West Seminary Drive	76119
75	Rosen	8.80	Act	2200 Mccandless Street	76106
76	Ryan Place Triangle	0.27	Act	3001 Fifth Avenue	76110
77	Sagamore Hills	4.15	Act	4719 Hampshire Boulevard	76103
78	Saunders	0.48	Act	2401 Mule Alley	76106
79	Seminary Hills	6.18	Act	5101 Townsend Drive	76119
80	Shackleford	10.00	Act	4615 Shackleford Street	76119
81	Southside Community Center Park	2.00	Act	959 East Rosedale Street	76115
82	Springdale	4.00	Act	2301 David Drive	76111

<b>Table V-24 Park Planning District 4 Park Inventory Listing...Continued</b>					
	<b>Park</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Park Address</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
83	Stephens	4.00	Act	2701 West Gambrell Street	76119
84	Sycamore	88.02	Act	2525 East Rosedale Street	76105
85	Sycamore Creek Golf Course	66.22	Act	401 Martin Luther King Freeway	76105
86	Sylvania	29.22	Act	3700 East Belknap Street	76111
87	Terry	0.43	Act	3104 North Terry Street	76106
88	Thorny Ridge	3.76	Act	9036 North Normandale Street	76116
89	Titus Paulsel	7.00	Act	2000 Brinkley Street	76105
90	Traders Oak	3.28	Act	1206 Samuels Avenue	76102
91	Trail Drivers	39.61	Act	1700 NE 28th Street	76106
92	Trinity	252.00	Act	2401 University Drive	76107
93	Van Zandt-Guinn	3.40	Act	501 Missouri Avenue	76104
94	Village Creek	24.31	Act	4750 Wilbarger Street	76119
95	Water Gardens	5.40	Act	1502 Commerce Street	76102
96	Westwind	2.10	Act	2833 Laredo Drive	76116
97	Will Rogers Memorial Center Complex	32.00	Act	3301 West Lancaster Avenue	76107
98	William McDonald	13.85	Act	5400 Eastland Street	76119
99	Windswept Circle	3.00	Act	6925 Cahoba Drive	76135
100	Worth Heights	0.58	Act	3812 South Jones Street	76110
101	Z-Boaz (South)	134.38	Act	5250 Old Benbrook Road	76126

## **PARK PLANNING DISTRICT 4 (PPD 4)**

### **Boundary Description**

Based on the creation of a Central City PPD to encompass the Central City boundary as defined in the City's 2004 Comprehensive Plan by the City of Fort Worth Planning Department, this PPD encompasses the area within Loop 820. However, there are multiple areas within the general boundary of this PPD belonging to PPDs 1, 2 and 3.

### **General Description of the Park System**

This PPD consists of the Central Business District that continues to experience a renaissance of renewal and growth. Parks in this system provide a linkage to the open space and trail corridor of the Trinity River. This PPD also has an adequate supply of special use urban parks that prove small pockets of open space in the urban core. The average park size is approximately 31 acres.

### **Summary of Facilities in PPD 4**

PPD 4 has sixty (60) Neighborhood, sixteen (16) Community, five (5) Large Recreation and eighteen (18) Special Use parks. Refer to Table V-31 for a listing of the major facilities by active park site.

## Community Centers

PPD 4 has fifteen (15) community centers that provide adequate service area coverage. These community centers provide a plethora of services as well as neighborhood and City-wide events including: structured recreational, cultural programs, and fun-filled educational and sporting activities for children and adults alike. 2004 Needs Assessment youth survey results revealed that 100% of the respondents find our community center facilities to be clean and they receive good customer service. Another 83% feel safe at our facilities. The following is a list of the fifteen community centers found in this PPD:

Andrew "Doc" Session Community Center	Greenbriar Community Center	R.D. Evans Community Center
Como Community Center	Hillside Community Center	Riverside Community Center
Diamond Hill Community Center	Martin Luther King Community Center	Southside Community Center
Eugene McCray Community Center	Northside Community Center	Sycamore Community Center
Fire Station Community Center	North Tri-Ethnic Community Center	Worth Heights Community Center

## Demographic Information

The population in PPD 4 experienced a growth rate of 5.89% in the nineties.

PPD 4	Percent Increase	Population Projection
1990 Population	-	49,492
1995 Population*	2.71%	50,834
<b>2000 Population*</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>239,202</b>
2005 Population	11.60%	266,949
2010 Population	11.10%	296,581
*Changes in population from 1995 onward are due to restructuring from eight to five Park Planning Districts.		

*PPD 4 is a Central City PPD and is largely built out with the highest percentage (30.08%) of family incomes below \$20,000. The City has recognized the unique needs of these economically challenged neighborhoods and established initiatives to focus on the needs of these neighborhoods.*

Table V-25 2000 FAMILY INCOME DISTRIBUTION PPD 4					
LESS THAN \$20,000	\$20,000 TO \$24,999	\$25,000 TO \$34,999	\$35,000 TO \$49,999	\$50,000 TO \$99,999	\$100,000 AND OVER
30.08%	10.43%	17.99%	17.67%	19.66%	4.18%

This entire PPD is located in the Central City area and is characterized by low incomes, a high average number of persons per household and a high percentage of households with

children under eighteen years of age.

<b>Table V-26 2000 FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS PPD 4</b>	
Total Households	72,662
Average Persons per Household	3.01
Households with Persons Under 18	33.12%

The age distribution shows a high percentage of children under the age of 12 based on the 2000 Census but the Baby Boom years are relatively low when compared to other PPDs. This would indicate a higher birth rate for this population.

<b>Table V-27 2000 AGE DISTRIBUTION PPD 4</b>									
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Under 12</b>	<b>12 to 18</b>	<b>19 to 24</b>	<b>25 to 29</b>	<b>30 to 39</b>	<b>40 to 49</b>	<b>50 to 59</b>	<b>60 to 69</b>	<b>70 and Older</b>
100.00%	21.65%	11.47%	10.05%	8.48%	15.92%	12.84%	7.81%	5.18%	6.61%

The ethnic make up of the district indicates that the predominate ethnic origin in this PPD is Hispanic/Latino (48.67%), with 25.31 % African American and 22.81% White.

<b>Table V-28 2000 Ethnicity PPD 4</b>	
White	22.81%
African American	25.31%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.38%
Asian	1.89%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0.08%
Other	0.06%
Two or more races	0.80%
Hispanic or Latino	48.67%

## Key Features or Opportunities

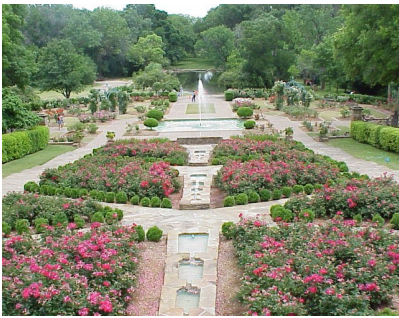
**Gateway Park** - This multi-faceted park with sports complex is located on the east side of Fort Worth just north of the I-30 and Beach Street interchange on the banks of the West Fork of the Trinity River. The center is complete with a snack bar, sports pro shop, restrooms and picnic areas. Softball and soccer leagues throughout Tarrant County use this facility for regular league play and for regional and state tournaments as well. The park section has numerous picnic areas and waterfront areas on the Trinity River with hike/bike/walk trails. Gateway is also home to the City's first off-leash dog park -- Fort Woof.



**Trinity Park** - This park is located in the heart of the cultural district. This is the second park to be developed in the City and has countless historical tales to go along with it. The Forest Park Miniature Train runs on the weekends and weather permitting. Located across from the Botanic Gardens and the Will Rogers Memorial Complex, Streams and Valleys, Inc. stocks the river each Spring with hundreds of fish. Fishing is allowed but may require a license and life jackets are recommended for small children. No swimming is allowed. Mayfest is held here each Spring. This multi-event, outdoor community festival is held to raise funds for the community and strengthen the spirit of community-wide volunteerism while promoting awareness of the parks and trail systems. The event is sponsored by Streams and Valleys, Inc., Tarrant Regional Water District, Junior League and the Parks and Community Services Department.



**Botanic Garden** - Walk through the living museum filled with year-round spectacular flowers and foliage. Among the twenty-one specialty gardens, you can enjoy the European designed Rose Garden, the Japanese Garden with its koi pond and the lush tropical flowers and foliage of the Conservatory. The Garden offers summer concerts on the lawn sponsored by the Fort Worth Symphony, docent-led programs, student internships and classes for adults and children. Numerous weddings are held here yearly inside the conservatory building or outside in the Fuller and Rose Gardens.



**Sycamore Park and Recreation Center**- located on the east side of Fort Worth with Sycamore Creek running through the middle of it, this park offers everything from swimming, tennis, softball, baseball, horseshoes, dominoes, basketball and lots more. The recreation center is a very active facility that offers something for everyone. The late night youth programs are especially popular during the summer and school holidays keeping the youth of Fort Worth in a safe facility. Texas Wesleyan University also uses the complex for their baseball games.



**Sycamore Creek Golf Course** - A 9-hole facility with a double set of tree boxes, located in the near southeast part of the City has recently undergone a \$3 million renovation. This unique layout is a par 70, regulation length golf course with double sets of trees that allows the golfer to play each hole from a slightly different perspective. The course is guaranteed to challenge the golfer to use every club in their bag and every bit of golfing skill he or she can muster. The tee from the elevated number one and ten tees immediately drop thirty feet onto the fairway below – a dramatic start to your game. Narrow tree lined fairways, strategically placed traps and four tee placements on each hole makes this course a test for everyone. The course measures 6,116 yards from the Championship tees, tee and 4,956 yards from the Forward tees.

**McLeland Tennis Center** - Take to the court year-round at the McLeland Tennis Center. This municipal facility offers players fourteen lighted outdoor hard courts and two climate-controlled indoor courts. Lessons and leagues keep your game at its peak, while a complete pro shop can provide all your equipment needs. The Center also provides clubhouse, dressing rooms, lockers and showers.





**Table V-29 Park Planning District 4 Listing of Major Park Facilities**

<b>Parks</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Playground</b>	<b>Shelter</b>	<b>Softball/Baseball Practice Field</b>	<b>Softball/Baseball Competition Field</b>	<b>Soccer Practice Field</b>	<b>Soccer Competition Field</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>Tennis Court</b>	<b>Pool</b>	<b>Trail</b>	<b>Multi-Use Slab</b>	<b>Golf</b>	<b>Volleyball</b>
Arneson	0.44	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Arnold	1.62	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0		1	0	0
Botanic Garden	116.56	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Buck Sansom	131.60	1	2	0	2	3	0	1	0	0	*	1	0	0
Burk Burnett	3.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Capps	4.41	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	*	1	0	0
Carter	163.11	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Chamberlin	6.72	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Circle	3.06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
City Hall Plaza	2.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Como Community Center Park	1.20	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0		1	0	1
Daggett	3.40	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Delga	4.06	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Diamond Hill	9.88	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	*	1	0	0
Diamond Hill H.S.	0.10	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Eastern Hills	3.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0		4	0	4
Eastover	13.50	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	*	2	0	1
Ed K. Collett	7.69	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Englewood	1.06	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Eugene McCray Community Center Park	3.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Fairfax	4.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	1
Fairmount	0.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Far Northside	3.44	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0		1	0	0
Federal Plaza	0.60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Fire Station Community Center	1.70	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0		1	0	0
Fort Woof	5.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Gateway	498.70	0	3	0	7	4	2	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
General Worth Square	1.53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
George Markos	29.69	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Gid Hooper	1.24	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		2	0	0
Glenwood	35.66	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Goodman	0.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Greenbriar	48.95	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Greenway	13.50	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Hall-Tandy Triangle	0.32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Harmon Field	97.50	1	0	0	1	3	3	0	0	0		0	0	0
Harrold	2.30	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0

**Table V-29 Park Planning District 4 Listing of Major Park Facilities...Continued**

	Acres	Playground	Shelter	Softball/Baseball Practice Field	Softball/Baseball Competition Field	Soccer Practice Field	Soccer Competition Field	Basketball	Tennis Court	Pool	Trail	Multi-Use Slab	Golf	Volleyball
<b>Parks</b>														
Harvey Street	0.66	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Haynes Memorial Triangle	0.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Heritage	112.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Hillside	24.14	1	2	0	1	0	0	4	2	1		4	0	0
Hyde	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Jefferson Davis	6.50	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Jennings -May-St. Louis	0.85	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0
Lincoln	7.00	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0		2	0	0
Linwood	4.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Littlejohn	0.83	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		2	0	0
Louella Bales Baker	0.96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Maddox	0.96	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Marie F. Pate	5.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		2	0	1
Marine	12.00	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	*	2	0	3
Marine Creek Linear	48.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Marine Creek Linear North	7.83	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Marion Sansom	264.00	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Martin Luther King	5.78	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0		2	0	0
Meadowood	1.75	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Morningside Middle School	2.41	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Normandy Place	1.50	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Northside	15.00	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	4	0	*	2	0	0
Paddock	0.80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Paz Hernandez	0.38	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Peter Smith	0.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Plover Circle	4.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Prairie Dog	39.56	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0		2	0	0
Quanah Parker	68.00	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Riverside	30.80	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Rockwood Golf Course	227.00	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1	0
Rodeo	5.30	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	*	4	0	1
Rolling Hills	207.29	0	0	1	1	0	15	0	8	0		0	0	0
Rosedale Plaza	6.25	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Rosemont	30.40	2	1	0	2	1	0	1	14	0	*	1	0	0
Rosen	8.80	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Ryan Place Triangle	0.27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Sagamore Hills	4.15	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Saunders	0.48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0



**Table V-29 Park Planning District 4 Listing of Major Park Facilities...Continued**

	Acres	Playground	Shelter	Softball/Baseball Practice Field	Softball/Baseball Competition Field	Soccer Practice Field	Soccer Competition Field	Basketball	Tennis Court	Pool	Trail	Multi-Use Slab	Golf	Volleyball
<b>Parks</b>														
Shackleford	10.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Seminary Hills	6.18	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Southside Community Center Park	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Springdale	4.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Stephens	4.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Sycamore	88.02	2	1	0	5	0	0	2	8	1		2	0	2
Sycamore Creek Golf Course	66.22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1	0
Sylvania	29.22	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	*	2	0	2
Terry	0.43	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0		1	0	1
Thorny Ridge	3.76	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Titus Paulsel	7.00	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Traders Oak	3.28	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Trail Drivers	39.61	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0		1	0	0
Trinity	252.00	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	*	3	0	0
Van Zandt-Guinn	3.40	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0		1	0	0
Village Creek	24.31	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	*	4	0	0
Water Gardens	5.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Westwind	2.10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Will Rogers Memorial Center Complex	32.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
William McDonald	13.85	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Windswept Circle	3.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Worth Heights	0.58	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	0		1	0	0
Z-Boaz (South)	134.38	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
<b>Total Major Park Facilities in PPD 4</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>
Acreage of Active Park Sites	3,114.49													

# Park Planning District 5

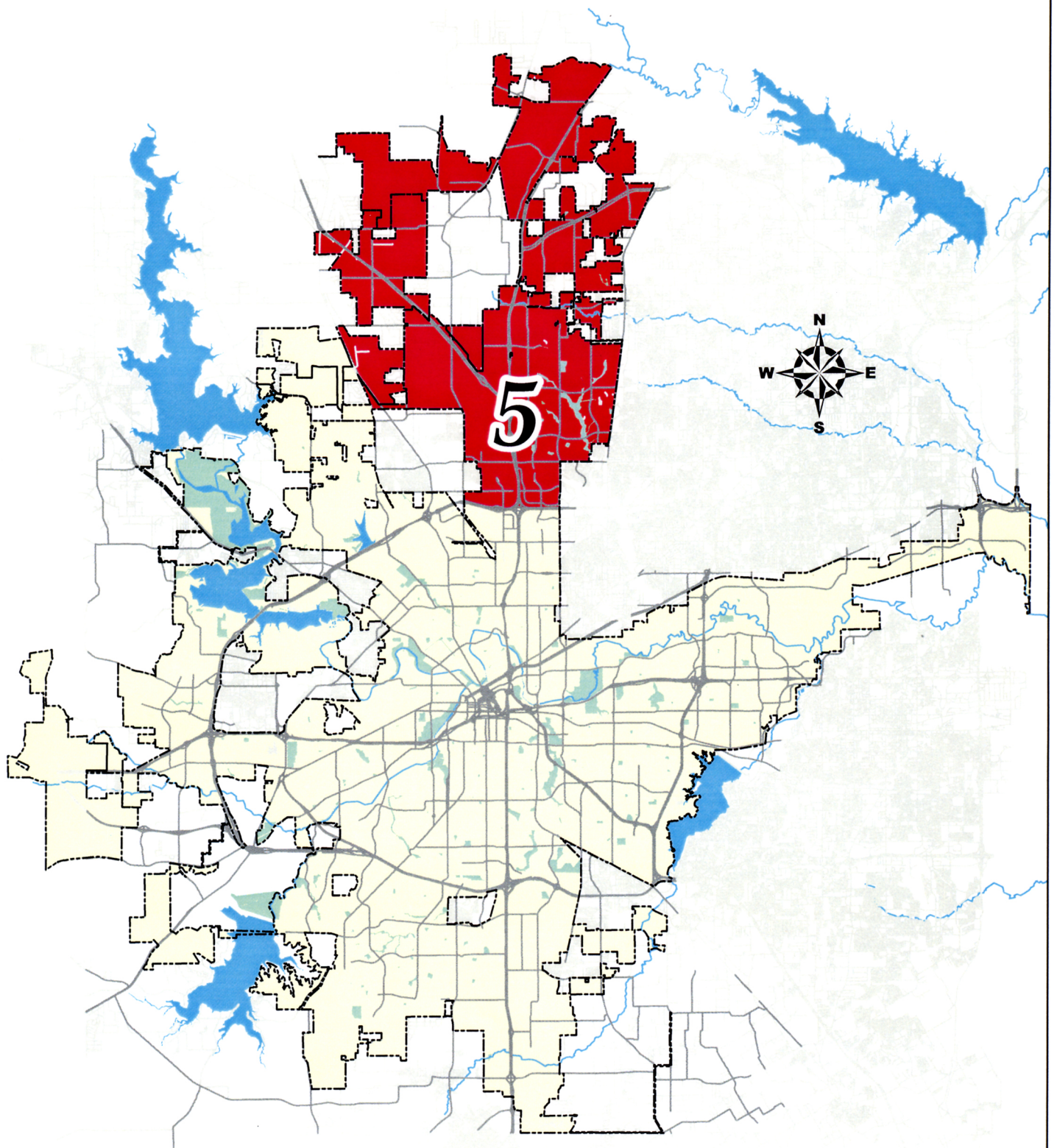


Table V-30 Park Planning District 5 Park Inventory Listing					
	Park	Acreage	Status	Park Address	Zip Code
1	Arcadia Trail	69.08	Act	77613 Arcadia Trail	76137
2	Arcadia Trail Park North	154.19	Act	8744 Arcadia Park Drive	76137
3	Arcadia Trail Park South	40.04	Act	4950 Basswood Boulevard	76137
4	Coventry Hills Addition	7.02	Res	8500 Western Meadows Drive	76137
5	Crossing at Fossil Creek	4.02	Res	6000 Mark IV Parkway	76131
6	Heritage Addition	5.70	Res	3600 Block of Heritage Trace Parkway	76248
7	Kristi Jean Burbach	14.71	Act	3529 Fossil Park Drive	76137
8	Lost Spurs	9.96	Act	3520 Alta Vista Road	76262
9	Mesa Verde	0.30	Act	7220 Mesa Verde Trail	76137
10	North Park	48.64	Act	9000 North Beach Street	76248
11	Park Place	5.80	Act	7812 Park Trails Drive	76137
12	Parkwood Hills	8.64	Res	7800 Parkwood Hill Boulevard	76137
13	Silver Sage	10.46	Act	7017 Silver Sage Drive	76137
14	Summerbrook	27.27	Act	4315 Huckleberry Drive	76137
15	Summerfields	9.40	Act	6720 Spoonwood Lane	76137
16	Summerfields Chisholm	4.54	Res	3970 Malibu Sun Drive	76137
17	Summerfields Northwest	4.99	Act	7755 Buttonwood Drive	76137
18	Vinyards at Heritage	44.15	Res	5280 Alta Loma Drive	76248
19	Woodland Springs	17.08	Res	11801 Copper Creek Drive	76248

## PARK PLANNING DISTRICT 5 (PPD 5)

### Boundary Description

PPD 5 is bounded on the north by the Texas Motor Speedway, on the south by North Loop 820, on the east by Denton Highway and on the west by Business Highway 287.

### General Description of the Park System

Public and private partnerships that have evolved as a result of the *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy* have contributed to the establishment of the Arcadia Trail parks and an even distribution of neighborhood parks that service this rapidly developing area. The Arcadia Trail parks line the banks of Whites Branch Creek, a tributary of Big Fossil Creek, which in turn flows into the West Fork of the Trinity River. Whites Branch Creek offers the opportunity to continue to expand the open space and trail system along its banks to the north as this area continues to develop. The average park size in this PPD is approximately 26 acres.

## Summary of Facilities in PPD 5

PPD 5 has one (1) Community and eighteen (18) Neighborhood parks. There are no Large Recreation or Special Use parks in PPD 5. There are also no community centers currently located in PPD 5. As growth continues in this PPD there will be a need for community center facilities. Refer to Table V-37 for a list of major facilities by active park site.

## Demographic Information

PPD 5 is sparsely populated but is experiencing the fastest growth rate among the PPDs based on population projections for the next five to ten years. PPD 5 has grown 21% in the nineties. Recent subdivision platting activity indicates that this area of the City will continue to grow at an even faster rate.

PPD 5	Percent Increase	Population Projection
1990 Population	-	14,708
1995 Population*	14.14%	16,788
<b>2000 Population</b>	-	<b>50,134</b>
2005 Population	51.90%	76,154
2010 Population	246.52%	263,887
*Changes in population from 1995 onward are due to restructuring from eight to five Park Planning Districts.		

The large majority of the households in PPD 5 are in the to high income levels and the percentage of those households below the \$20,000 level (6.97%) is far below the City-wide value (14.95%).

Table V-31 2000 FAMILY INCOME DISTRIBUTION PPD 5					
LESS THAN \$20,000	\$20,000 TO \$24,999	\$25,000 TO \$34,999	\$35,000 TO \$49,999	\$50,000 TO \$99,999	\$100,000 AND OVER
6.97%	1.71%	9.50%	14.17%	48.79%	18.86%

The average number of persons per household (2.90) is slightly above the 2.63 persons per household City-wide. PPD 5 has the highest percent of households with children under the age of 18.

Table V-32 2000 FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS PPD 5	
Total Households	17,010
Average Persons per Household	2.90
Households with Persons Under 18	33.80%

In 2000 22.53% of the population of PPD 5 was under the age of 12. A similar bulge occurs in the demographic beginning with the Baby Boomer group.

<b>Table V-33 2000 AGE DISTRIBUTION PPD 5</b>									
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Under 12</b>	<b>12 to 18</b>	<b>19 to 24</b>	<b>25 to 29</b>	<b>30 to 39</b>	<b>40 to 49</b>	<b>50 to 59</b>	<b>60 to 69</b>	<b>70 and Older</b>
100.00%	22.53%	11.27%	5.86%	8.61%	21.04%	16.47%	8.71%	3.03%	2.48%

<b>Table V-34 2000 Ethnicity PPD 5</b>	
White	78.07%
African American	3.68%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.85%
Asian	4.19%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0.03%
Other	0.21%
Two or more races	1.99%
Hispanic or Latino	10.99%

### **Key Features or Opportunities**

**Arcadia Trail Park** - This unique park system is composed of a chain of parks with hike/bike/walk trails, playgrounds, picnic areas and a nature area as well as tennis and basketball courts and soccer practice fields. The Arcadia Trail Park network serves as an example of stellar public/private partnerships that have evolved. The parks line the banks of Whites Branch Creek, which offers the opportunity to continue to expand the open space and trail system to the south.

Table V-35 Park Planning District 5 Listing of Major Park Facilities														
Parks	Acres	Playground	Shelter	Softball/Baseball Practice Field	Softball/Baseball Competition Field	Soccer Practice Field	Soccer Competition Field	Basketball	Tennis Court	Pool	Trail	Multi-Use Slab	Golf	Volleyball
Arcadia Trail	69.08	5	2	0	0	2	0	2	4	0	*	2	0	2
Arcadia Trail Park North	154.19	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Arcadia Trail Park South	40.04	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Kristi Jean Burbach	14.71	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Lost Spurs	9.96	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Mesa Verde	0.30	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
North Park	48.64	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0		0	0	0
Park Place	5.80	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Silver Sage	10.46	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0		1	0	0
Summerbrook	27.27	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Summerfields	9.40	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Summerfields Northwest	4.99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Total Major Park Facilities in PPD 4		15	2	0	1	4	5	3	4	0	7	3	0	2
Acreage of Active Park Sites	394.83													



## **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER FACILITIES AND PUBLIC LANDS**

### **Urban Forestry**

City Ordinance No. 11541 gives the Parks and Community Services Department Forestry Division authority over the trees, shrubs and plants growing in the parks, street parkway as well as other city properties. City right-of-way or parkway is the land between the private property line and the curb edge. The Forestry Division uses available funds, human resources and equipment to accomplish essential tree work or to issue planting and tree work permits to citizens who wish to accomplish the work. The services conducted by the Forestry Division include:

Tree Trimming and Removal - Pruning or removal trees on parkways or City-owned property to remove hazardous deadwood, decayed and diseased limbs and low limbs that interfere with traffic.

Tree Permits - If the Forestry Division cannot trim or remove a tree on a parkway as soon as a request is received, the citizen may obtain a permit to have the work completed. A forester will inspect the tree and write a permit that allows the citizen to have the tree work done by a qualified company at the citizen's expense.

Tree Planting - Support and encourage tree planting in the parkways by citizens. A City Forester will assist the citizen in the selection of an appropriate species of tree and issue a permit for tree planting in the parkway. The Forestry Division is actively involved in assisting groups such as neighborhood associations to conduct tree planting programs. The Forestry Division will help citizen groups coordinate, select, obtain, and mark planting sites for large numbers of trees to be planted in neighborhoods.

Based on the efforts of the Forestry Division and numerous volunteers, Fort Worth has been recognized as a Tree City USA City for the last twenty-five years. The urban forest contributes to the quality of life in the City of Fort Worth and the impact of the urban forest is not limited to City parks. In essence the definition of parkway means that every street in the City should be park like through the planting efforts of the Department and citizens.

### **Agreements with Area Independent School Districts**

The Department has maintained a long and fruitful relationship with area Independent School Districts (ISDs). Agreements between the department and several FWISD exist for a number of City park sites, facilities and amenities.

- In 2003, the City entered into a joint use agreement with the Northwest Independent School District for use of the district's state of the art practice and competition recreational facilities including amenities not normally associated with typical recreational facilities such as competition gymnasiums, weight rooms, tennis courts, and auditorium and office space.

- Chamberlin Park was a gift to the City from the FWISD.
- Dagget Park includes a play field that the City leases and a parking lot that was built by the Department.
- At Diamond Hill High School the City built and maintains four (4) tennis courts on leased FWISD property.
- A similar agreement is in place at Eastern Hills High School where four (4) tennis courts and a play area were constructed and are maintained by the Department.
- At Morningside Middle School, the Department built park facilities on leased school grounds and maintains those park facilities.
- At a site leased from the FWISD at Ridglea Hills, the Department built and maintains a tennis court.
- In conjunction with the continued development of Rolling Hills Park, the Department entered into an agreement with the FWISD to build six (6) tennis courts for O.D. Wyatt School that are maintained by the school district.
- At Southwest Park, the parking lot and some park features sit on land leased from the FWISD.
- At Atwood McDonald Elementary School, the Department installed and maintains play equipment on school property, which was donated by the school's Parent Teacher Organization.
- The Department leases land and a building from FWISD for a small community center at Thomas Place Park.
- Van Zandt-Guinn and Westwind Parks have some facilities constructed on land leased from the FWISD.

The Department continues to work closely with FWISD and has also initiated agreements for park use with the Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, Northwest ISD and the Keller ISD for provision of park facilities.

### Athletics

Step up to home plate at any of the ball fields in the City. In fact, whatever your sport – soccer, racquetball, rugby, flag football – you can reserve an athletic facility. Cool off on a hot Texas day in one of seven Parks and Community Services Department pools. And keep your kids happy and busy in one of the City's free Youth Sports Programs, co-sponsored by the Youth Sports Council, Inc. and the Fort Worth Independent School District.

The Department uses Farrington Field for the Victory Games and the Summer Track Program, at no cost every year. The FWISD uses ten (10) athletic fields from February to June at no cost. The FWISD also uses a meeting room at Haws Athletic Center for a special education class at no cost and does not pay for use of the McLeland Tennis Center for special events. The Department provides discounted golf passes for school team members to use City golf facilities.



## Golf Courses

The City of Fort Worth offers the golfer a quality, enjoyable, safe and comprehensive golf program through five municipally owned golf courses, promoting golf as a lifetime sport. Each course has a unique layout and is designed to challenge every level of skill. The City facilities feature individual and group lessons, tournament planning, handicapping, programs for women and juniors and City-wide tournament opportunities. Great pride is taken in providing an accessible, affordable, quality golf experience to the public and residents of Fort Worth. The junior golf program supervised by qualified PGA golf professionals is provided annually for area youth. Included are lessons on safety, rules, etiquette of the game and golf swing fundamentals.

## **PROVIDING HUMAN SERVICES**

Human services are vital to the health of every community. Timely delivery of an array of human services is an important component of the City of Fort Worth's vision of a future with *strong neighborhoods, a sound economy, and a safe community*. The City, Tarrant County, the State of Texas, secular non-profits, faith-based non-profits and for-profit providers have a strong history of community initiative and collaboration in the delivery of human services in Fort Worth. Umbrella organizations such as United Way, Area Agency on Aging, Catholic Charities, Tarrant County Youth Collaboration and Mental Health and Mental Retardation of Tarrant County are especially important to ensure efficient delivery of services through program and project funding, providing information and referral, and soliciting and leveraging funds.

### Family Support

Family support can include child care, programs on parenting skills, self-support training, personal and family counseling, adoption, support for neighborhood associations and initiatives to help build communities, immigration assistance and job training and placement. Some agencies providing these services are the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Jewish Federation, Lena Pope Home, Northside Inter-Church Agency, the Parenting Center, the Pastoral Care Center, Tarrant County Department of Human Services and many area churches.

### Youth Services

Youth services are targeted toward youth at risk through circumstance or behavior. Tutoring, pregnancy prevention, sport and recreation, and self esteem programs are a sample of the range of youth services available. Some agencies providing these services are Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Boy and Girl Scouts, Camp Fire USA, Child Care Associates, Communities in Schools, United Community Centers, YMCA and YWCA, and Fort Worth Housing Authority. The City has initiated an effort to adopt an "Asset Building" approach to providing youth programs through City departments. The goal of this approach is to assist youth in developing assets that will help them succeed in life. These assets are

grouped into eight categories: support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, constructive use of time, commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, and positive identities.

### Senior Services

Senior services are designed to serve those over sixty years of age and can include delivery of daily meals, transportation, social programs, guardianship services, advocacy for nursing home residents and respite care for Alzheimer's care-givers. Agencies providing these services include the American Red Cross, Area Agency on Aging, Guardianship Services, Mental Health and Mental Retardation of Tarrant County, Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County, Meals on Wheels, and Visiting Nurse Association of Tarrant County.

## **GENERAL RECREATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

### Camps

The Summer Day Camp and the Youth Sports Camp programs use FWISD buses to transport children to field trips and events. The Department pays a standard rental fee for the bus service.

### Educational Facilities and Services

School children receive discounted admission or tours to the Log Cabin Village, the Fort Worth Zoo, the Botanic Garden and the Nature Center and Refuge. The Department gives over sixty Arbor Day presentations each year and provides trees for planting on a limited basis throughout the year.

### **Relationships with Private and Non-Profit Organizations**

The Department has maintained a long relationship with the philanthropic groups in the City and has added valuable resources as a direct result of these relationships. Fort Worth foundations have donated parks such as the Water Gardens, Burnett Park, Trinity East, and Carter Park. The Botanic Garden has support groups that provide funding for individual gardens, capital improvements and on going maintenance expenses.

The Department also works closely with groups such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and the Fort Worth Zoological Association in the management of facilities and administration of programs. The YMCA manages some of the pools in the system and the Zoological Association manages and maintains the Zoo. The Boys and Girls Club provides the Comin' Up Gang Intervention Program which targets at risk youth.

## DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS

The Department operates a variety of age specific recreation and community service programs that range from fitness and wellness to life skills. A brief listing of core programs are divided into two categories: Fitness and Wellness Programs and Unique Programs. The Community Action Partners Program Centers operated by the Community Services Division provide direct services to persons with incomes at or below 125 percent of the poverty level for utilities and energy crisis needs. City staff also provides referrals to local agencies for additional services. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs funds these centers.

**Fitness and Wellness Programs** include life skills programs; recreation programs; community outreach/partnership programs; personal development programs including substance abuse prevention, self-esteem enhancement and counseling; cultural and social programs; and athletic leagues.

- Fitness/Wellness Programs - gymnastics, aquatics, aerobics, weight training
- Life Skills - cooking, computer software, photography, nutrition, income tax preparation classes, Junior Golf and Wood Carvers
- Community Outreach/Partnerships - Como After School Program, Neighborhood Advisory Councils, Police Storefront, youth sports and YMCA/YWCA
- Personal Development - substance abuse prevention, self-esteem enhancement and counseling
- Cultural Programs - Ballet Folklorico, Black History Month, Cinco de Mayo, dance, drama and music
- Social Programs - senior lunches, dominoes and dancing
- Athletic Leagues - softball, soccer, volleyball and basketball

**Unique Programs** include the After School/Late Night Program, Comin' Up Gang Intervention Program, Youth Sports Program, Community Alternative Program, Standard Based Schools, social services programs, Homework Assistance Center, health and child care services and neighborhood services. Many of the City's community centers also serve as emergency shelters and safe havens for the children of the community. Although the Department offers many unique programs, the examples presented serve to demonstrate the breadth and diversity of services provided.

Facility Meeting Space - The Department provides meeting space for Homeowners Associations (HOA), Neighborhood Advisory Councils (NACS), elections, birthday parties, and Capital Improvement Program meetings.

Emergency Shelters/Safe Havens - The Department provides emergency shelters and safe havens for the children of the community.

Special Interest Groups - The Department provides facilities for groups such as the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, American Association of Retired Peoples (AARP) and Wood Carvers.

Special Programs - lock-ins and libraries at community centers.

Volunteer Opportunities - community restitution workers.

Employment Opportunities - The Department provides opportunities for employment as summer leaders and contract instructors.

### **After School and Late Night Programs**

These programs offer youth an alternative to the streets and gangs. Recreation activities are programmed after school and in the evenings.

### **Comin' Up Gang Intervention Program**

The Comin' Up Gang Intervention Program is provided by the Department under a contract with the Boys and Girls Clubs. This program provides gang awareness presentations, gang intervention, facilitates conflict resolution and conducts weekly small group sessions on topics dealing with violent classroom behavior, peer relationships and student teacher relationships. These activities are conducted at the request of school administrators and teachers.

### **Youth Sports Program**

The Youth Sports Program is a public-private partnership that provides recreation opportunities for the youth of the community. Youth get the opportunity to participate in organized recreation leagues at little or no cost to the child's family.

### **Standards Based Schools**

A partnership has been established with the FWISD Standards Based Schools Program to implement Homework Clinics in seven (7) PACSD Community Centers to provide tutoring and support for students attending eleven (11) Standards Based Schools.

### **Social Services**

The Community Services Division, one of the first in the country to be added to a park and recreation department, offers direct and referral assistance to low-income families. This division also includes a Late Night Program and Volunteer Coordinator. Graffiti is kept in check through the Graffiti Abatement Program that provides free paint to City residents.

## **Section Summary**

This diverse population of Fort Worth is served by approximately 10,424 acres of parkland, nineteen (19) City-operated community centers, one (1) athletic center, one (1) Botanic Garden, one (1) Nature Center and Refuge, one (1) Zoo, five (5) golf courses (108 holes), 156 Neighborhood Parks, thirty-one (31) Community Parks, seven (7) Large Recreation Parks, and thirty-two (32) Special Use Parks. This plan breaks these facilities into five geographic districts for the purpose of identifying needs and making the planning units more manageable. The information presented in the inventory is analyzed in Section VI: Park and Recreation Standards and Classifications, to determine deficiencies and opportunities within the context of the National Recreation and Park Association 1996 standards and the public input received from the Needs Assessment Studies and public meetings.



## **Section VI: Needs Assessment and Identification**

### **Introduction**

The Needs Assessment is one of the most significant instruments in the development of this Master Plan. This survey effort was conducted by National Service Research, a Fort Worth based marketing research firm. The consultant employed a two-step approach in garnering the opinions of the citizens of Fort Worth. The findings of the Needs Assessment test the direction of the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan – 2004 and provide guidance for developing priorities for park facilities and future park and open space development. The Needs Assessment process was undertaken to meet the following comprehensive planning objectives:

### **Overall Objectives of the Needs Assessment Survey**

- 1) To provide the necessary user participation data and desired services and service levels needed to facilitate the development of the Department's comprehensive plan.
- 2) To solicit information which will assist the department in making future management and marketing decisions.
- 3) To update and add detail to the level of information developed from previous City efforts to acquire citizen input.

### **Specific Objectives of the Needs Assessment Survey**

- 1) To identify the priorities of Fort Worth citizens in each Park Planning District and in different social and demographic groups for:
  - a) new or renovated facilities, amenities, and services.
  - b) the allocation of Department funds for the facilities and services the department offers.
- 2) To solicit citizen guidance as to the future direction of the Department as a provider, facilitator and/or outreach agency.
- 3) To increase the Department's understanding of why more Fort Worth citizens do not take advantage of the services and facilities provided by the City.
- 4) To identify the level of support acceptable to users and non-users of the park and recreation system.
- 5) To measure the extent of constituency use and support for each type of program and facility offered by the Department.

The survey conducted for the needs assessment provides the following information:

- a) Participation data for key recreation and leisure activities that utilize public facilities or city sponsored programs. The participation data identified to what extent citizens use park and recreation facilities and which sub groups of citizens use particular facilities.
- b) The needs assessment identified what obstacles are to be overcome so that the existing citizen market can be expanded to meet the needs of a larger segment of Fort Worth's population.
- c) Profiles of survey respondents by key demographic variables that are comparable to the 2003 Fort Worth Citizens Survey and previous Department surveys.
- d) Level of awareness of various facilities, programs and services offered by the Parks and Community Services Department; the sources of information on facilities, programs and services (e.g. newspapers, TV, radio, brochures, flyers, and word of mouth).
- e) Preferences and priorities of citizens for future spending on Department provided services and facilities.

### Research Methodology

The research process included 600 telephone surveys with Fort Worth residents and 182 self-administered surveys with Fort Worth youth. The Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department (PACSD) developed eight Park Planning Districts (PPD). Approximately seventy-five (75) random telephone surveys were completed within each PPD. Therefore, the results are considered to be representative of the Fort Worth community. The 600 completed telephone surveys represent a margin of error of plus or minus 4.1% at a 95% confidence level. Each Park Planning District represents a margin of error of plus or minus 11.5% at a 95% confidence level. The self-administered youth surveys were distributed at various community centers and schools within Fort Worth.

The survey document was extensive and required approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete with each respondent. The consultant staff designed the telephone survey questionnaire based upon goals and objectives of the PACSD and to compare the 2003 results with certain issues included in the 1991, 1997, and 2001 Needs Assessment Telephone Surveys. The final survey document was tested by NSR and approved by PACSD staff. The telephone and youth survey documents are included in the Technical Report. Detailed technical tables are presented in Appendices A and B of the Technical Report. The telephone survey was conducted over a two and a half week period, June 6 through June 23, 2003. Telephone interviews were conducted seven days a week during daytime and evening hours. The 1997 Needs Assessment included 2,400 surveys and serves as a benchmark, however, this survey has a slightly higher statistical validity than that of the 2001 and 2003 surveys.



The executive summary of the results presents four groups of respondents:

**Park Users** - Those who were regular and infrequent users of the park and recreation system.

**Non-Park Users** - Those who at one time used the park and recreation system but no longer do and those who have never used the system.

**Youth Park Users** - Comprised of park users and infrequent users.

**Youth Non-Park Users** - Those who no longer use the park system.

Survey results are presented by “users” and “non-users” to gain insight into the specific views of each group to determine their needs and opinions. The most significant findings are summarized below.

### **PARK USERS**

**Park Rating** - The rating of Fort Worth parks among park users ranked “good” and showed little difference when compared to the 1997 and 1991 survey results. A total of 64% (compared to 57% in 2001) of all respondents and 75% (no change from 2001) of park users rated parks good or excellent when asked to rate their satisfaction of the park system.

**Frequency of Park Use** - Three-fourths of all respondents are considered park users (use parks/facilities regularly or not very often) compared to 56% in 2001. A total of 60% of the respondents who have a park near their home use it compared to 54% in 1991, 70% in 1997 and 66% in 2001. A majority (86%, no change since 2001 survey) of the respondents without a park near their home indicated they would use a park if one were located nearby.

**Community Centers** - Use of community centers has remained consistent since 1991 (46% in 2003 use a Fort Worth community center). Most of those using the centers are satisfied with their experience at the facilities with 93% rating their experience at the centers as outstanding or satisfactory. Facilities and programs needed most in a community center were: youth sports programs, indoor swimming pools, senior citizen programs, and a gymnasium.

**Park Facilities Used** - The facilities used most were (in order of use) playground equipment, hike/bike/walk trails, fields for organized sports, practice fields and outdoor basketball courts. The largest declines among facility usage, when comparing 2003 results with the 2001 survey were: playground equipment (6% decline), hike/bike/walk trails (9% decline), golf courses (6% decline) and tennis courts (3% decline). Facilities used least were: Log Cabin Village, tennis courts, the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, Water Gardens, organized programs and classes, and golf courses.

**Facility Satisfaction Ratings** - Facilities that rated the highest were: golf courses, hike/bike/walk trails, picnic areas, playground equipment, softball fields, soccer fields and baseball fields. The facilities that received the lowest ratings were: restrooms, swimming pools, lighting, outdoor basketball courts, volleyball courts and playgrounds. Facilities that received higher satisfaction ratings than in the 2001 survey were: golf courses, picnic areas, softball, soccer and baseball fields. All other facilities ratings were slightly lower when compared to the 2001 survey results.

**Needed Facilities in Parks** - The facilities respondents desired most in Fort Worth parks are: restrooms, benches/seating areas, playgrounds, picnic shelters/tables, lighting, open space/natural areas, nature trails and nature preserves. 56% of park users reported they would visit Fort Worth parks more often and 25% would increase the time spent in parks if these facilities were added.

**Most Important Recreation Amenities** - The top five most important and most used recreation amenities to respondents (in order of importance) were: hike/bike/walk trails (50%), picnic facilities (50%), playgrounds (44%), swimming pools (14%), basketball courts (13%), recreation centers (12%), fields for organized sports (12%), and game fields for practice (12%).

**Park Maintenance** - The City provides park maintenance with limited resources, yet 56% of the park users felt park maintenance was adequate compared to 48% in 2001 and 56% in 1997. A total of 33% felt more maintenance of the parks is needed compared to 43% in 2001 and 37% in 1997.

**Park Security** - More visible security in parks was less of a concern among respondents compared to 1997 results. A total of 66% in 2003, 65% in 2001, 74% in 1997, and 55% in 1991 desire more visible security in parks.

**Future Park Development** - Most respondents prefer development of more smaller parks used by neighborhood residents over developing few larger parks. A majority of respondents favor restoring and repairing existing park facilities over purchasing more park land in developing areas. Respondents were also in favor of developing fewer parks to maintain current tax levels over developing more small neighborhood parks that would increase taxes.

**Out of Town Visitor Use of Parks** - A majority of respondents take out of town visitors at least once a year or more to major Fort Worth park attractions such as the Zoo, Botanic Garden, Water Gardens and Trinity Park.

**Role of Parks and Open Space** - It is important to note that most respondents feel parks and open space play an important role in quality of life, neighborhood revitalization, economic development, local tourism and business relocation.

**Special Events** - A majority of respondents have attended Mayfest, followed by sporting events in parks, and Concerts in the Garden.

**Information About Parks and Recreation Activities** - The most predominate means in which respondents obtain information about parks is through the newspaper, family/friends or drive by and see it (newspaper and family/friends were the top two answers in 1991, 1997 and 2001). 8% have obtained information about parks through the *City Page* in Monday's newspaper, a significant decline from the 2001 survey in which 33% reported they found out about parks from this source and 25% in the 1997 study. In 1997, 4% found out about parks through the Internet compared to 15% in 2001 and 6% in 2003. In 2003, 20% fewer respondents used the newspaper as a source to obtain information about Parks compared to 2001 whereby 48% found out about parks through the newspaper, 63% in 1997 and 81% in 1991.

### **NON-PARK USERS**

**Use of Parks and Facilities** - Non-park users, comprising 25% of the total sample, visit the Zoo, Botanic Garden, and Water Gardens the most but rarely use other park facilities.

**Limitations of Park Use** - 23% of the respondents have no park facilities nearby, 17% have no transportation to get to parks and 15% have no free leisure time or have no interest in using parks.

**Needed Facilities in Parks** - The facilities respondents desire most in parks are: restrooms, playgrounds, benches/seating areas, open space/natural areas, lighting, parking and picnic shelters/tables. Park users rated these facilities highly needed as well.

**Special Events** - 15% of the non-park users have attended Mayfest. More than 10% have attended special events at the Botanic Garden.

**Future Park Development** - Most respondents prefer development of more small parks used by neighborhood residents over developing few larger parks. Respondents were split on whether the City should restore and repair existing park facilities or purchase more park land in developing areas. They also prefer spending more money on building parks and recreation areas instead of on supervised recreation activities.

**Out of Town Visitor Use of Parks** - Many respondents take out of town visitors to major Fort Worth park attractions such as the Zoo, Botanic Garden, and the Water Gardens.

**Role of Parks and Open Space** - It is important to note that most respondents feel parks and open space play an important role in quality of life, neighborhood revitalization, local tourism, economic development, and business relocation.

**Information About Parks and Recreation Activities** - The most predominate means by which respondents obtain information about parks would be through the newspaper, drive by and see it and family/friends. 5% obtain information from the *City Page* in Monday's newspaper. 51% reported they do not know how to find out about parks, recreation facilities and programs in Fort Worth. PACS needs to be more effective at marketing events, parks and recreation opportunities within the Fort Worth community.

### **YOUTH PARK USERS**

**Park Rating** - The youth respondents rated the parks and facilities in Fort Worth extremely close to the adult respondents that indicate a satisfactory score. The City should continue to maintain facilities and programs in order to meet the needs of the community. A total of 68% of all youth respondents and 72% of youth park users rated parks good or excellent when asked to rate their satisfaction of the park system.

**Frequency of Park Use** - A majority (87%) of the youth respondents are park users compared to 75% of the adults who considered themselves park users.

**Community Centers** - It is understandable that community center use is high since many of the youth completed surveys within various community centers throughout the City. A majority of the youth who do use community centers rated their experience as positive. Facilities the youth would like in a community center include: an indoor pool, youth sports programs, game room, weight room, and a gymnasium.

**Park Facilities Used** - Youth typically use swimming pools, basketball courts, playgrounds, community centers, fields for practice and fields for organized sports

**Needed Facilities in Parks** - The youth most wanted benches/seating areas, indoor pool, playground equipment, and basketball courts in parks. They also ranked restrooms as a high priority.

**Most Important Recreation Amenities** - The top five most important and most used recreation amenities to the youth park users (in order of importance) were: playgrounds (45%), swimming pools (45%), basketball courts (35%), practice game fields (25%), picnic shelters/tables (21%), hike/bike trails (18%), fields for organized sports (17%) and recreation centers (16%).

**Park Maintenance** - One-third of the youth felt the Parks and Community Services Department provides adequate maintenance of the parks and 21% felt more maintenance is needed. 29% did not rate the park maintenance.

**Park Security** - Park security is not as important to the youth when compared to the adult respondents. Only 27% of the youth felt parks are unsafe compared to 66% among the adult respondents who felt more visible park security is needed.

**Out of Town Visitor Use of Parks** - Many youth take out of town visitors to the Zoo, Botanic Garden, Water Gardens, Forest Park and Trinity Park.

**Special Events** - Less than half of the youth respondents have attended Mayfest. Other special events attended most by the youth were sporting events at parks and summer day camps.

**Information About Parks** - The most predominate way youth find out about parks and recreation activities is through their friends, drive by and see it, at school and newspaper articles. The PACSD should seriously consider more aggressive communication efforts with the school districts in Tarrant County regarding parks, special events and recreation activities available to youth.

### **YOUTH NON-PARK USERS**

**Use of Parks and Facilities** - The youth non-park users comprised only 13% of youth surveyed. Youth non-park users visit the Zoo, use hike/bike/walk trails, outdoor basketball courts, and swimming pools the most.

**Limitations of Park Use** - Many youth reported their limitations to park use were due to no free time, no nearby neighborhood facilities and lack of transportation to parks.

**Needed Facilities in Parks** - The youth would like an indoor pool, outdoor pool, ball fields, and open space/natural areas the most.

**Special Events** - 39% of the youth respondents have attended summer day camps. Very few have attended other special events. The PACSD should consider marketing events in community centers and within the school system to increase awareness and participation among youth.

**Out of Town Visitor Use of Parks** - 35% of the youth have taken out of town visitors to the Zoo. Other parks youth have taken out of town visitors to include Trinity Park and Forest Park.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Youth Demographic Characteristics** - 13% of those surveyed have lived in Fort Worth less than five years while 67% have lived here over ten years. The youth are from slightly larger households than the adult respondents. More than half participate in recreation programs or organized sports activities. The mean age of the youth surveyed was 13 years of age. 22% reported someone in their household has a disability and 50% reported parks were handicapped accessible. The ethnic distribution of the youth respondents are as follows: 25% White, 34% African American, 28% Hispanic and 11% other races. A total of 52% were male and 48% female.

**Adult Demographic Characteristics** - 17% have resided within Fort Worth less than five years while 41% have lived here over 30 years. Park users have an average of 1.3 children while non-park users have an average of 0.7 children. A total of 46% have children that participate in recreation programs or organized sports activities. The mean age among park users was 43 years and non-park users was 52 years. A total of 17% reported a household member was disabled, yet 51% felt that Fort Worth parks and facilities were handicapped accessible. The ethnic profile of those surveyed is as follows: 56% White, 24% African American, 18% Hispanic and 2% other races. The annual average household income among park users was \$51,660 and non-park users \$42,770. A total of 58% of the respondents were female and 42% male.

## SUMMARY OF KEY SURVEY FINDINGS PARK USERS

### **Rating of Parks**

All respondents were asked to rate the parks, recreation opportunities and open spaces in Fort Worth. The results are presented by park users and non-park users below. A mean rating of 2.9 compared to 2.8 in 2001 shows slight improvement in the overall rating of the park system among all respondents. The percentages and mean indicate a minor increase in satisfaction with the park system. This is not a significant increase but is an early warning for the City to maintain facilities and programs in order to meet the needs of the community.

The PACSD must keep in mind that a growing park system exists. There are limited resources to address the quality of the existing and growing infrastructure.

<b>Rating of Fort Worth Parks, Recreation Opportunities and Open Spaces</b>									
<b>Park Rating</b>	<b>All Respondents</b>			<b>Park Users</b>			<b>Park Non-Users</b>		
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Excellent (4)	11.0%	10.2%	12.7%	14.2%	14.1%	15.6%	1.3%	5.2%	6.7%
Good (3)	52.8	47.2	54.0	61.3	60.4	64.4	27.3	30.7	32.3
Somewhat Unsatisfactory (2)	14.5	12.5	11.8	14.4	16.5	13.2	14.7	7.5	9.0
Poor (1)	3.8	5.8	3.3	3.3	6.0	2.7	5.3	5.6	4.5
Don't Know/No Opinion	17.8	24.3	18.2	6.7	3.0	4.1	51.3	50.9	47.5
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>

### **Frequency of Park Usage**

The results below present the respondents' frequency of park use that included use of parks, hike/bike/walk trails, and recreation or athletic facilities. The percentage of park users in Fort Worth dropped from 73% in 1991 to 68% in 1997 to 56% in 2001, however usage has increased to 75% in 2003.

<b>Frequency of Park Use in Fort Worth</b>			
<b>Frequency of Use</b>	<b>All Respondents</b>		
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Use on a regular basis	34.0%	25.5%	31.9%
Use but not very often	41.0	30.0	35.7
Use previously but not anymore	12.2	23.8	17.0
Do not use these facilities	12.8	20.7	15.5

### **Is There a Park Near Your Home and Do You Use It?**

More males and households with children tend to use parks near their home more often than others surveyed. Even though overall park usage has increased in 2003, neighborhood or local park use appears to be declining slightly.

<b>Is There a Park Near Your Home and Do You Use It?</b>			
<b>Responses- All Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Yes, I/my household members use it	60.4%	65.5%	70.1%
Yes, I/my household members don't use it	14.7	17.4	13.7
No, there is not a park near my home	24.0	17.1	16.2

<b>If a Park were Located Within Walking Distance Would You:</b>									
<b>Responses</b>	<b>All Park Users</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD – All Respondents</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Be likely to use it	85.7%	83.3%	87.5%	54.5%	53.3%	87.1%	84.4%	71.4%	58.3%
Consider it a plus but would not use it	9.8	16.7	6.3	36.4	40.0	9.7	4.4	21.4	41.7
No Opinion	2.7	0.0	6.3	9.1	6.7	0.0	8.9	7.1	0.0

A majority (86%) of those respondents without a park near their home reported they would use a park if one were located within walking distance of their home, a significantly higher percentage than reported in the 1991 survey (66%). This indicates an increasing desire for local close-to-home parks and facilities and reaffirms the original goals and objectives of the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.

### **Community Centers**

Less than half (47%) of the respondents reported there was a community center in their area of the City. Of those respondents that have a community center nearby, 17% reported they participate in the programs offered, 36% use the facilities and 54% do not use the centers. The use of community centers has remained consistent since 1991. Those who use community centers most are typically younger persons and households with children.

Of those respondents who use the community centers' facilities or participate in programs, 92% reported their experience at the community center was outstanding or satisfactory. Only 4% reported their experience was unsatisfactory. The facilities and programs needed at a City of Fort Worth community center are presented in order of preference in the following table.

<b>Facilities and Programs Needed at a City of Fort Worth Community Center (All Park Users)</b>	
<b>Facilities/Programs</b>	<b>2003</b>
1. Youth Sports Programs	55.6%
2. Indoor Swimming Pool	54.0
3. Senior Citizen Programs	53.3
4. Gymnasium	50.9
5. Multipurpose rooms for various organizations	48.0
6. Adult Sports Programs	46.2
7. Weight Room	44.4
8. Arts & Crafts Programs/Rooms	42.9
9. Day Camps	40.2
10. Game Rooms	36.9
11. Gang Intervention/Preventive Programs	36.7
12. Police Officer Substation	34.7
13. Racquetball/Squash Courts	22.7
14. Late Night Programming	21.1
15. Extreme Sports	16.4
Don't know/no opinion	12.2



### **Park Facilities - Usage**

Playground equipment, hike/bike/walk trails, practice fields, fields for organized sports and outdoor basketball are the park facilities used most among park users.

<b>Park Facilities - Frequency of Use (At least monthly or more)</b>									
<b>Facility</b>	<b>All Park Users</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD (PPD) – All Respondents</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
1. Playground Equipment	40.9%	26.3%	31.2%	24.0%	33.8%	42.5%	39.0%	30.1%	28.0%
2. Hike/Bike Trails	33.1	22.4	23.4	22.7	25.7	30.1	24.7	20.5	34.7
3. Fields-Organized Sports	18.7	17.1	16.9	14.7	8.1	16.4	20.8	8.2	14.7
4. Practice Fields	18.0	17.1	14.3	12.0	10.8	15.1	23.4	6.8	13.3
5. Outdoor Basketball	17.6	2.6	16.9	21.3	17.6	12.3	14.3	6.8	14.7
6. Botanic Gardens	13.8	6.6	11.7	17.3	4.1	19.2	5.2	9.6	17.3
7. Community Athletic Centers	13.3	6.6	19.5	17.3	0.0	12.3	5.2	9.6	13.3
8. Swimming Pools	13.3	5.3	16.9	9.3	8.1	12.3	13.0	5.5	12.0
9. Zoo	11.8	7.9	9.1	10.7	2.7	16.4	9.1	5.5	10.7
10. Golf Courses	8.0	2.6	5.2	12.0	1.4	5.5	9.1	8.2	6.7
11. Organized Programs & Classes	6.9	9.2	6.5	5.3	1.4	5.5	7.8	1.4	5.3
12. Water Gardens	6.7	2.6	10.4	9.3	2.7	6.8	2.6	2.7	10.7
13. Nature Center	5.6	0.0	7.8	4.0	2.7	9.6	3.9	2.7	5.3
14. Tennis Courts	4.9	0.0	3.9	4.0	1.4	6.8	6.5	1.4	5.3
15. Log Cabin Village	1.6	0.0	3.9	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	2.7

### **Facility Usage Compared with 1997, and 2001 Survey Results**

The table below compares park facility usage with the 1997 and 2001 survey results. Those households that utilize park facilities monthly or more are typically male and under 50 years of age. There has been a consistent decline in golf (14% to 8%), tennis 11% to 5%) and playground use (50% to 41%).

<b>Comparison of 1997, 2001 and 2003 Park Facility Use (Used Monthly or More)</b>			
<b>Responses- All Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>1. Playground Equipment</b>	<b>40.9%</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>50.4%</b>
2. Hike/Bike Trails	33.1	41.7	39.9
3. Practice Fields	18.0	20.1	26.2
4. Fields-Organized Sports	18.7	20.7	25.9
5. Outdoor Basketball	17.6	19.2	25.5
6. Botanic Garden	13.8	10.8	17.8
7. Swimming Pools	13.3	10.2	15.3
<b>8. Golf Courses</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>14.0</b>
9. Zoo	11.8	9.6	13.2
10. Community/Athletic Center	13.3	11.7	12.8
<b>11. Tennis Courts</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>
12. Water Gardens	5.6	6.6	9.9
13. Log Cabin Village	1.6	0.9	9.5
14. Organized Programs/Classes	6.9	8.4	9.4
15. Nature Center	5.6	3.9	5.5

### **Rating of Existing Park Facilities**

The following list summarizes the rating of existing Fort Worth park facilities according to the following mean rating scale: Above Average = 3, Satisfactory = 2, and Needs Improvement = 1. Answers were excluded from the mean score if the respondent was unfamiliar with the park facility. Twelve of the fourteen facilities had a mean score below "2" indicating respondents scored them below the satisfactory rating. These facilities must be maintained to meet the needs of the community since overall park facility usage has increased since 1991. Hike/bike/walk trails and golf courses are the two facilities that scored satisfactory or above.

<b>Rating of Fort Worth Park Facilities - Mean Scores</b>									
<b>Facility</b>	<b>All Park Users</b>	<b>Mean Score by PPD – All Respondents</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
1. Golf Courses	2.17	2.04	2.21	2.27	2.05	2.30	1.96	2.04	2.26
2. Hike/Bike/Walk Trails	2.00	2.03	2.00	2.05	1.92	1.91	1.88	1.98	2.12
3. Picnic Areas	1.90	1.97	1.91	1.94	1.97	1.77	1.69	1.86	1.98
4. Softball Fields	1.90	1.74	1.86	1.94	1.83	2.03	1.67	1.90	2.16
5. Soccer Fields	1.88	1.79	1.89	1.98	1.90	2.07	1.74	1.85	1.79
6. Baseball Fields	1.86	1.73	1.84	1.96	1.89	2.14	1.50	1.84	2.00
7. Parking	1.83	1.92	1.76	1.94	1.80	1.69	1.81	1.84	1.84
8. Tennis Courts	1.82	1.75	1.86	1.79	1.75	1.80	1.94	1.89	1.80
9. Playground Equipment	1.81	1.81	1.81	1.68	1.80	1.73	1.86	1.86	1.88
10. Volleyball Courts	1.75	1.76	1.69	1.64	1.81	1.87	1.45	1.82	1.81
11. Outdoor Basketball Courts	1.74	1.70	1.70	1.89	1.69	1.79	1.70	1.83	1.79
12. Lighting	1.72	1.92	1.61	1.73	1.62	1.66	1.78	1.72	1.55
13. Swimming Pools	1.68	1.69	1.78	1.59	1.75	1.77	1.39	1.81	1.68
14. Restrooms	1.46	1.80	1.45	1.39	1.27	1.44	1.38	1.51	1.31

<b>Comparison of 1997, 2001 and 2003 Park Facility Rating</b>			
<b>Facility</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
1. Golf Courses	2.17	2.16	2.24
2. Hike/Bike/Walk Trails	2.00	2.13	2.22
3. Picnic Areas	1.90	1.89	1.95
4. Softball Fields	1.90	1.88	2.03
5. Soccer Fields	1.88	1.76	1.98
6. Baseball Fields	1.86	1.83	2.00
7. Parking	1.83	1.86	1.91
8. Tennis Courts	1.82	1.83	1.93
9. Playground Equipment	1.81	1.89	1.93
10. Volleyball Courts	1.75	1.84	1.91
11. Outdoor Basketball Courts	1.74	1.75	1.85
12. Lighting	1.72	1.71	1.78
13. Swimming Pools	1.68	1.79	1.89
14. Restrooms	1.46	1.42	1.50

\* Facilities highlighted above have higher ratings than in 2001. All other facilities have a decline in rating.

### **Facilities Needed at Parks**

The following table outlines by PPD the park facilities in order of ranked importance as being needed in Fort Worth parks. The mean score is calculated as follows: 3 = definitely needed, 2 = somewhat needed and 1 = not at all needed. Those who were not familiar or could not rate a facility were excluded from the mean score calculation.

<b>Fort Worth Park Facilities Needed in Parks</b>									
<b>Facility</b>	<b>All Park Users</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD – All Respondents</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
1. Restrooms (in parks 100+ acres)	2.74	2.46	2.73	2.81	2.90	2.86	2.99	2.46	2.82
2. Benches/Seating Areas	2.67	2.63	2.57	2.67	2.74	2.89	2.95	2.31	2.68
3. Playgrounds	2.67	2.71	2.49	2.67	2.66	2.93	2.93	2.38	2.67
4. Picnic Shelters	2.64	2.67	2.54	2.62	2.66	2.86	2.87	2.33	2.66
5. Lighting	2.57	2.24	2.77	2.76	2.52	2.77	2.85	2.24	2.58
6. Open space/natural areas	2.57	2.58	2.37	2.54	2.55	2.90	2.87	2.44	2.55
7. Nature trails	2.55	2.51	2.36	2.50	2.55	2.66	2.83	2.43	2.48
8. Nature preserves	2.54	2.50	2.37	2.53	2.58	2.59	2.75	2.43	2.50
9. Parking	2.53	2.22	2.54	2.69	2.60	2.76	2.87	2.09	2.64
10. Portable Toilets (in parks 10-100 acres)	2.51	2.04	2.70	2.71	2.80	2.68	2.65	2.10	2.63
11. Hike/bike/walk trails	2.50	2.38	2.39	2.61	2.36	2.69	2.71	2.25	2.62
12. Educational programs	2.41	2.32	2.47	2.53	2.41	2.56	2.71	2.11	2.21
13. Basketball Courts	2.39	2.20	2.36	2.37	2.35	2.60	2.68	2.02	2.56
14. Outdoor pool	2.39	2.64	2.41	2.11	2.19	2.54	2.53	2.14	2.28
15. Lighted athletic courts or fields	2.39	2.10	2.32	2.48	2.54	2.69	2.68	2.18	2.25
16. Ball Fields (baseball, softball, football)	2.37	2.18	2.39	2.28	2.33	2.58	2.65	2.02	2.50
17. Greenbelts connecting large (100+ acres) parks	2.36	2.19	2.17	2.33	2.38	2.46	2.66	2.36	2.23
18. Soccer Fields	2.35	2.37	2.30	2.27	2.29	2.64	2.46	1.96	2.44
19. Indoor pool	2.33	2.54	2.43	2.23	2.17	2.39	2.48	2.22	1.96
20. Athletic practice fields	2.29	2.30	2.22	2.23	2.30	2.39	2.56	2.07	2.29
21. Tennis Courts	2.17	2.18	2.31	2.16	2.12	2.17	2.38	1.91	2.18
22. In-line skating or skateboarding	2.07	2.02	2.04	2.11	1.73	2.28	2.27	2.02	1.92
23. Concession facilities (in parks 100+ acres)	2.06	1.75	2.41	2.19	2.20	2.13	2.24	2.00	1.86
24. Volleyball Courts	2.00	2.11	2.09	2.06	1.95	2.11	2.00	1.92	1.76
25. Ice Hockey Rink	1.72	2.20	1.80	1.74	1.39	1.52	1.63	1.98	1.51

**Comparison of 1997, 2001 and 2003 – Percentage of Respondents Reporting Facilities are “Definitely” Needed in Parks**

Facility	2003	2001	1997
1. Restrooms (in parks 100+ acres)	72.9%	68.8%	72.0%
2. Benches/Seating Areas	68.7	78.7	75.6
3. Playgrounds	67.1	73.3	68.7
4. Picnic Shelters	66.9	79.9	75.7
5. Lighting	58.7	69.4	66.3
6. Open Space/Natural Areas	58.7	59.8	56.4
7. Nature Trails	57.6	60.7	64.5
8. Nature Preserves	56.2	51.7	54.1
9. Parking	55.3	67.9	61.2
10. Portable Toilets (in parks 10 - 100 acres)	61.3	62.8	N/A
11. Hike/Bike/Walk Trails	53.6	57.7	55.0
12. Educational Programs	43.8	45.0	57.7
13. Basketball Courts	41.1	55.6	53.6
14. Outdoor Pool	48.2	42.9	40.4
15. Lighted Athletic Courts or Fields	43.8	36.9	46.3
16. Ball Fields (baseball, softball, football)	41.6	41.4	48.9
17. Greenbelts connecting large (100+ acres) parks	42.0	55.0	55.3
18. Soccer Fields	40.4	39.9	43.4
19. Indoor Pool	47.6	32.4	36.3
20. Athletic Practice Fields	36.2	36.9	42.6
21. Tennis Courts	29.6	40.5	41.0
22. In-line Skating or skateboarding	33.6	32.1	42.0
23. Concession Facilities (in parks 100+ acres)	32.7	42.9	49.4
24. Volleyball Courts	17.1	38.7	40.3
25. Ice Hockey Rink	20.9	18.9	N/A

If the facilities cited above were added to parks a majority of the respondents would increase their park use as shown in the following table.

Use of Fort Worth Parks if Above Facilities were Added									
Facility	All Park Users	Survey Results by PPD – All Respondents							
		PPD 1	PPD 2	PPD 3	PPD 4	PPD 5	PPD 6	PPD 7	PPD 8
Increased Park Visits	56.2%	57.9%	48.1%	57.3%	44.6%	65.8%	77.9%	38.4%	28.0%
Increased Length of Time Spent in Parks	24.9	17.1	22.1	16.0	20.3	20.5	18.2	21.9	25.3
Would Not Increase Park Use	12.0	18.4	14.3	18.7	12.2	11.0	3.9	28.8	41.3

## **Park Maintenance**

More than half, 56% (48% in 2001) of park users felt the upkeep and maintenance in Fort Worth parks was adequate, up from 48% in 2001. A total of 33% (43% in 2001) felt that more maintenance was needed. These statistics indicate significant improvement in upkeep and maintenance in Fort Worth parks.

<b>Rating of Fort Worth Parks Upkeep and Maintenance</b>									
<b>Facility</b>	<b>All Park Users</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD – All Respondents</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Adequate Maintenance	55.8%	52.6%	33.8%	50.7%	58.1%	50.7%	53.2%	47.9%	46.7%
More Maintenance Needed	33.1	32.9	37.7	36.0	25.7	23.3	22.1	39.7	21.3
Less Maintenance Needed	0.7	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.3
Don't Know/Can't Rate	10.4	14.5	26.0	13.3	16.2	26.0	24.7	11.0	30.7

<b>Comparison of 1991, 1997, 2001 and 2003 Parks Upkeep and Maintenance</b>				
<b>Facility</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1991</b>
Adequate Maintenance	55.8%	48.3%	56.3%	N/A
More Maintenance Needed	33.1	42.6	37.1	N/A
Less Maintenance Needed	0.7	0.6	0.7	N/A
Don't Know/Can't Rate	10.4	8.4	5.9	N/A

## **Security in Fort Worth Parks**

More than half, 66%, of the park users surveyed felt that more visible security in the parks is needed, a slight increase from 65% in 2001 and a significant increase from 55% in the 1991 survey. Slightly more females and households with children felt that more visible security in the parks is needed.

<b>Rating Comparison of Fort Worth Park Security</b>			
<b>Responses – All Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Adequate Security in the Parks	21.8%	27.0%	17.8%
Need More Visible Security in the Parks	66.0	64.6	74.0
Don't Know/Can't Rate	12.2	8.4	8.3

<b>Rating of Fort Worth Park Security – 2003</b>									
<b>Facility</b>	<b>All Park Users</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD – All Respondents</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Adequate Security in the Parks	21.8%	26.3%	7.8%	14.7%	20.3%	23.3%	20.8%	23.3%	17.3%
Need More Visible Security in the Parks	66.0	61.8	74.0	73.3	48.6	49.3	51.9	56.2	56.0
Don't Know/Can't Rate	12.2	11.8	18.2	12.0	31.1	27.4	27.3	20.5	26.7

### **User Fees for Park Facilities**

The table below outlines the portion that the respondents felt the user should pay when using certain Fort Worth park facilities. Each park user surveyed was asked to determine the amount they felt the user should be asked to pay (all, some, or none) for using the facilities listed below. A majority of respondents felt users should pay “some” or “all” of the costs when using golf courses, the Zoo, day camps, recreation programs, pools, the Botanic Garden and Log Cabin Village. These facilities are typically fee based facilities within the park system. Half of respondents feel the user should not pay to use picnic shelters, yet the PACSD charges a fee to use these facilities.

<b>Portion of Fees to be Paid by the User for Fort Worth Park Facilities</b>			
<b>Responses- All Park Users</b>	<b>Pay-None</b>	<b>Pay-Some</b>	<b>Pay-All</b>
1. Golf Courses	9.1%	40.9%	41.1%
2. Zoo	9.6	62.9	24.4
3. Day Camps	14.9	59.8	14.7
4. Adult Recreation Programs	14.7	64.4	13.8
5. Log Cabin Village	25.8	50.9	10.2
6. Swimming Pools	20.0	65.3	10.7
7. Botanic Garden Use	32.0	48.9	13.8
8. Tennis Courts	41.1	43.8	5.6
9. Nature Center Use	34.2	47.3	8.7
10. Athletic Fields	44.9	42.2	4.9
11. Youth Recreation Programs	27.3	56.7	10.2
12. Picnic Shelters	52.4	38.2	4.0



## **Future Park Development**

Regarding future park development, over half of the respondents favor more small neighborhood parks than fewer large parks, 63% and 27% in 2001, respectively.

<b>Future Park Development - More Smaller Parks or Fewer Larger Parks</b>									
<b>Response</b>	<b>All Park Users</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD – All Respondents</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Develop More Smaller Parks Used by Neighborhood Residents	62.4%	63.2%	42.9%	49.3%	62.2%	72.6%	71.4%	68.5%	52.0%
Develop a Few Larger Parks to be used by all city residents	28.4	31.6	35.1	34.7	23.0	23.3	23.4	20.5	25.3
Don't know/No Opinion	9.1	5.3	22.1	16.0	14.9	4.1	5.2	11.0	22.7

Less than half, 46%, of the respondents favored the PACSD fix and restore existing parks and recreation areas rather than purchasing more park land in developing areas, 57% and 30% respectively in 2001.

<b>Future Park Development - Fix &amp; Restore Existing Parks or Purchase More Park Land in Developing Areas</b>									
<b>Response</b>	<b>All Park Users</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD – All Respondents</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Fix and Restore Existing Parks and Recreation Areas	45.8%	38.2%	42.9%	49.3%	54.1%	38.4%	22.1%	61.6%	40.0%
Buy More Park Land in Developing Areas	40.2	53.9	35.1	36.0	29.7	46.6	63.6	21.9	26.7
Don't know/No Opinion	14.0	7.9	22.1	14.7	16.2	15.1	14.3	16.4	33.3

<b>Comparison of 1991, 1997, 2001 and 2003 Future Park Development - Fix &amp; Restore Existing Parks or Purchase More Park Land in Developing Areas</b>				
<b>Facility</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1991</b>
Fix and Restore Existing Parks and Recreation Areas	45.8%	57.1%	64.8%	N/A
Buy More Park Land in Developing Areas	40.2	29.7	23.4	N/A
Don't know/No Opinion	14.0	13.2	11.7	N/A

More than half, 57% felt PACSD should spend more money on building parks and recreation areas rather than on supervised recreation activities, compared to 50% in 2001.

<b>Future Park Development - Spend More Money on Supervised Recreation Activities or Building Parks and Recreation Areas</b>									
<b>Response</b>	<b>All Park Users</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD – All Respondents</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Spend More Money on Supervised Recreation Activities	28.7%	23.7%	28.6%	33.3%	39.2%	27.4%	18.2%	38.4%	9.3%
Spend More Money on Building Parks and Recreation Areas	55.6	68.4	37.7	50.7	35.1	65.8	72.7	39.7	49.3
Don't Know/No Opinion	15.8	7.9	33.8	16.0	25.7	6.8	9.1	21.9	41.3

<b>Comparison of 1991, 1997, 2001 and 2003 Future Park Development – Spend More Money On Supervised Recreation Activities or Building Parks and Recreation Areas</b>				
<b>Facility</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1991</b>
Spend More Money on Supervised Recreation Activities	28.7%	31.5%	40.5%	N/A
Spend More Money on Building Parks and Recreation Areas	55.6	49.5	38.9	N/A
Don't know/No Opinion	15.8	18.9	20.6	N/A

Over half, 63%, of the respondents favor maintaining current tax levels by developing fewer parks than developing more small neighborhood parks and increasing tax levels compared to 58% in 2001. The table below outlines the results by planning district.

<b>Future Park Development - Maintain Current Tax Levels by Developing Fewer Parks or Increase Tax Levels by Developing More Parks</b>									
<b>Response</b>	<b>All Park Users</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD – All Respondents</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Develop More Smaller Neighborhood Parks and Facilities Close to Home by Increasing Taxes	23.1%	19.7%	15.6%	9.3%	20.3%	32.9%	35.1%	11.0%	16.0%
Develop Fewer Parks and Maintain Current Taxes	63.1	72.4	66.2	52.0	54.1	57.5	58.4	71.2	58.7
Don't Know/No Opinion	13.8	7.9	18.2	18.7	25.7	9.6	6.5	17.8	25.3

### **Role of Parks and Open Space**

Most respondents felt that parks and open space play an important role in quality of life, neighborhood revitalization, economic development, local tourism, and business relocation.

<b>Do You Believe Parks and Open Space Play an Important Role in:</b>			
<b>Responses-All Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
1. Quality of Life	80.7%	89.5%	91.5%
2. Neighborhood Revitalization	75.3	80.2	84.6
3. Economic Development	43.1	59.5	68.0
4. Local Tourism	49.3	57.7	67.7
5. Business Relocation	34.7	53.2	58.2

### **Out of Town Visitor Use of Parks**

A majority of respondents have taken out of town visitors to the Fort Worth Zoo and Botanic Garden. Other parks frequented often were the Water Gardens and Trinity Park. Most respondents take out of town visitors to Fort Worth parks once a year or more.

<b>Out of Town Visitor Frequency to PACSD Tourism Destinations</b>			
<b>Response All Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
1. Fort Worth Zoo	63.1%	65.8%	68.7%
2. Botanic Garden	60.2	61.6	63.4
3. Water Gardens	45.8	45.9	48.1
4. Trinity Park	34.9	44.1	42.3
5. Other Fort Worth Parks	31.5	36.6	27.0
6. No out of town visitors	11.6	19.2	10.0
7. Do not take visitors to parks	6.4	4.2	4.8

<b>How Often Do You Take Out of Town Visitors to Fort Worth Area Park Facilities? (Base = Respondents who have had out of town visitors)</b>			
<b>Response All Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Monthly or More	1.9%	3.4%	4.3%
At least two to four times per year	30.6	37.2	38.1
Once a Year	25.2	22.2	20.0
Varies	40.1	32.0	33.1
Don't Know/No Answer	2.2	5.3	4.5

### **Special Events**

The table below presents the special events the respondents have attended. Comparisons to the 1997 and 2001 survey are also shown where applicable. There has been considerable decline in special event participation in 2003 compared to previous years.

<b>Special Events Attended</b>			
<b>Response All Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
1. Mayfest	38.4%	70.9%	67.0%
2. Sporting Events in the Parks	27.3	40.8	45.2
3. Concerts in the Garden	24.4	45.6	41.9
4. Special Events at Botanic Garden	32.2	39.3	35.8
5. Special Events at the Nature Center	8.7	16.8	17.5
6. Summer Day Camps	5.3	13.5	8.9
7. City Sponsored Golf Tournaments	2.9	7.5	8.3
None of the Above	32.4	14.1	12.1

## **Information About Parks and Recreation Activities**

Most respondents obtain information about parks and recreation activities from the newspaper, hear about it from friends, and driving by. The 1991 statistics include sources respondents would very likely or likely use to get information about parks and other recreational activities.

<b>How Do You Obtain Information About Parks and Recreation Activities in Fort Worth?</b>				
<b>Response All Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1991</b>
1. Newspaper	28.0%	48.3%	63.0%	81.0%
2. Hear about it from friends	28.2	46.2	49.5	81.0
3. Drove by	35.3	N/A	N/A	65.0
4. Television Advertisements/Stories	3.8	27.3	41.6	68.0
5. Radio Advertisements/Stories	4.7	21.6	38.0	52.0
6. Brochures/Handouts	6.4	19.8	27.5	38.0
<b>7. City Page in Monday's Newspaper</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>25.2</b>	N/A
8. Schools	5.3	14.1	20.5	N/A
9. Call the Parks Department and Ask	2.9	14.1	13.6	29.0
10. Local Cable Network	1.1	10.2	12.3	N/A
11. Don't know how to find out	10.0	4.8	5.2	N/A
<b>12. Internet/World Wide Web</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>	N/A
13. Other Answers	1.6	4.5	3.8	N/A
14. Don't Recall	0.0	4.2	1.9	N/A

## **SUMMARY OF KEY SURVEY FINDINGS NON-PARK USERS**

The data below are the results of those respondents who at one time used the park system but no longer do and those who have never used the system, a total of 150 respondents or 25% of all respondents interviewed. In 2001, 267 respondents or 45% were interviewed.

## **Have a Park Near Your Home and Do You Use It?**

Almost one-half have a park near their home and are not interested in using the parks and facilities.

<b>Do you have a park near your home and do you use it?</b>			
<b>Respondents – Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Yes, and I/my household members use it	6.0%	62.5%*	69.7%*
Yes, and I/my household members do not use it	46.7		
No, there is not a park in my neighborhood	42.0	37.5	28.6
Don't know/no opinion	5.3	0.0	1.7

\*In 1997 and 2001, the respondents were asked if they had a park near their home with responses being yes or no.

Over one-half (59%) of those respondents who do not have a park near their home said they would use a park if one were located near their home, significantly more than revealed in the 2001 and 1997 surveys. About one-third would not use a park but would consider it a plus.

<b>If a park were located within walking distance, would you;</b>			
<b>Response - Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Be likely to use it	59.2%	38.0%	37.7%
Consider it a plus for the neighborhood but would not use it	32.4	52.0	55.9
No opinion	8.5	N/A	5.5

### **Park Facilities Needed in Parks**

The top five facilities identified by non-park users as most needed in parks were the same as for park users. Almost half of the respondents reported they would increase their park visits if the facilities below were offered in neighborhood and community parks. About one-third of the respondents did not know what facilities are needed.

<b>Facilities identified as “Definitely Needed” in Parks – Non-Park Users</b>			
<b>Response - Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
1. Restrooms (in parks over 100 acres)	62.0%	45.7%	49.7%
2. Picnic shelters/tables	62.0	53.9	51.9
3. Benches/seating areas	61.3	54.3	53.5
4. Playgrounds	60.7	51.7	47.6
5. Open space/natural areas	56.7	39.3	36.2
6. Parking	56.7	46.8	48.5
7. Lighting	56.0	46.4	42.5
8. Portable toilets (in parks less than 100 acres)	55.3	40.4	N/A
9. Nature preserves	45.3	33.0	35.9
10. Natural trails	44.7	36.3	41.5
11. Hike/bike/walk trails	43.3	40.4	38.9
12. Lighted athletic courts/fields	43.3	36.3	29.5
13. Educational programs	40.0	27.7	37.6
14. Basketball courts	40.0	32.6	33.9
15. Ball fields (soccer, baseball, football)	36.7	31.1	31.5
16. Concession facilities in parks over 100 acres	34.7	29.2	30.3
17. Greenbelts connecting large parks over 100 acres	34.0	29.6	32.6
18. Indoor pool	34.0	23.2	22.8
19. Outdoor pool	32.0	27.0	30.8
20. Soccer fields	31.3	27.0	28.2
21. Athletic practice fields	31.3	24.0	27.5
22. Tennis courts	26.7	28.5	30.6
23. In-line skating/skateboarding	24.7	22.5	27.0
24. Volleyball courts	16.7	30.3	30.0
25. Ice hockey rink	14.0	19.5	N/A

### **Special Events/Programs Attended**

Although special event attendance among non-park users significantly declined in 2003, it is important to note that the percentage of park users increased to 75% in 2003 from 56% in 2001.

<b>Special Events Attended</b>			
<b>Response - Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
1. Mayfest	15.3%	44.9%	48.3%
2. Special Events at Botanic Garden	12.0	28.1	25.4
3. Concerts in the Garden	8.7	25.5	21.4
4. Sporting Events at Parks	6.0	19.1	22.5
5. Special Events at the Nature Center	0.7	9.7	10.4
6. Summer Day Camps	1.3	4.9	4.4
7. City Sponsored Golf Tournaments	1.3	4.1	4.7
8. Other	1.3	3.1	0.4
None of the Above	69.3	35.6	35.3

### **Future Park Development**

Regarding future park development, a majority of respondents prefer more small parks over large parks; want the City to spend more money on building park and recreation areas; and prefer the City build fewer parks to maintain current tax levels. There were mixed opinions regarding whether to fix and restore existing parks or buy more park land in developing areas to meet growth needs. These responses are consistent with the 1997 and 2001 survey results.

<b>Future Park Development – Develop more smaller parks or develop a few larger parks</b>			
<b>Response - Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Develop More Smaller Parks Used by Neighborhood Residents	53.3%	46.4%	52.1%
Develop a Few Larger Parks to be used by all city residents	23.3	21.3	18.7
Don't Know/No Opinion	23.3	32.2	29.1

<b>Future Park Development – Fix and Restore Parks or Buy More Park Land</b>			
<b>Response - Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Fix and restore existing parks and recreation areas	35.3%	46.8%	57.3%
Buy more parkland in developing areas to meet growth needs	36.7	22.1	16.0
Don't Know/No Opinion	28.0	31.1	26.7



<b>Future Park Development – Spend More Dollars on Supervised Recreation Activities, or Spend More Money on Building Park and Recreation Areas</b>			
<b>Response - Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Spend more money on supervised recreation activities	22.7%	26.2%	39.9%
Spend more money on building park and recreation areas	43.3	32.2	26.1
Don't Know/No Opinion	34.0	41.6	34.0

<b>Future Park Development – Develop More Small Parks/Facilities by Increasing Tax Levels, or Develop Fewer Parks and Maintain Current Tax Levels</b>			
<b>Response - Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Develop more small neighborhood parks/facilities by increasing tax levels	20.7%	22.1%	20.9%
Develop fewer parks and maintain current tax levels	56.0	40.4	54.0
Don't Know/No Opinion	23.3	37.5	25.0

### **Role of Parks and Open Space**

A majority of non-park users and park users felt that parks and open space play an important role in quality of life, neighborhood revitalization, local tourism, economic development, and business relocation.

<b>Do You Believe Parks and Open Space Play an Important Role in:</b>		
<b>Response - Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>
1. Quality of Life	64.7%	67.4%
2. Neighborhood Revitalization	63.3	61.4
3. Local Tourism	39.3	56.2
4. Economic Development	35.3	51.7
5. Business Relocation	32.7	33.7
6. None of the Above	18.0	2.6
Don't Know	0.0	19.5

### **Out of Town Visitor Use of Parks**

One in five non-park users have taken out of town visitors to the Fort Worth Zoo, Botanic Garden and Water Gardens. Most non-park users take out of town visitors to PACSD parks once a year or more.

<b>Out of Town Visitor Frequency to PACSD Tourism Destinations</b>			
<b>Response - Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Fort Worth Zoo	20.0%	34.1%	44.2%
Botanic Garden	27.3	31.1	38.3
Water Gardens	22.7	25.5	30.4
Trinity Park	12.0	15.7	22.3
Other Fort Worth Parks	12.0	12.7	12.7
No out of town visitors	32.0	40.8	28.5
Don't Know	0.0	9.7	1.8

<b>How Often Do You Take Out of Town Visitors to Fort Worth Area Park Facilities?</b> <i>(Base = Respondents who have had out of town visitors)</i>			
<b>Response - Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Monthly or More	0.0%	1.3%	0.9%
At least two to four times per year	16.9	17.2	21.2
Once a Year	35.6	18.5	21.9
Varies	39.0	35.7	36.6
Don't Know/No Answer	8.5	27.4	19.4

### **Information About Parks and Recreation Activities**

Most non-park users interviewed obtain information about parks and recreation activities from newspaper articles, hear about it from friends, radio advertisements/stories and the *City Page* in Monday's newspapers. The table below presents the results.

<b>How Do You Obtain Information About Parks and Recreation Activities in Fort Worth?</b>			
<b>Response - Non-Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
Newspaper Articles	18.7%	29.6%	47.1%
Hear About it From Friends	11.3	18.7	32.7
Radio Advertisements/Stories	4.7	10.1	25.3
<i>City Page</i> in Monday's Newspaper	4.7	19.9	22.1
Schools	2.7	5.6	12.2
Local Cable Network	2.0	6.4	11.6
Television Stories/Advertisements	2.0	20.2	37.0
Brochures/Handouts	0.7	5.6	20.5
Internet/World Wide Web	0.7	5.2	5.0
Call the Park Department and Ask	0.0	12.7	20.4
Other	2.7	4.5	N/A
Don't know how to find out	51.3	N/A	N/A
Don't Recall/No Opinion	0.0	11.2	N/A

**DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS  
ALL SURVEY RESPONDENTS**

The following tables present the demographic characteristics of all 600 respondents surveyed.

**Length Lived in Fort Worth**

Survey results by length lived in Fort Worth are similar to the 2001 survey results.

<b>How Long Have You Lived in Fort Worth – 2003</b>			
<b>Length of Time</b>	<b>Total Sample</b>	<b>Citizen Survey</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Less than 5 Years	16.5%	15.3%	20.0%
5 to 10 Years	11.8	13.3	7.3
11 to 20 Years	16.8	18.2	12.7
21 to 30 Years	14.3	16.0	9.3
Over 30 Years	40.5	37.1	50.7

### **Total Children**

Respondents with more children in the household are likely to be a frequent park user. Almost half of the respondents with children reported they are active in recreation programs or organized sports.

<b>Number of Children in Household Under Age 24 – 2003</b>			
<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Total Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Zero	48.5%	42.9%	65.3%
One	17.0	17.6	15.3
Two	18.7	22.0	8.7
Three	9.3	10.2	6.7
Four or More	6.0	6.9	3.3

<b>Age Groups Represented (Base = Households with Children) – 2003</b>			
<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Total Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Under 5 years old	36.6%	37.3%	33.3%
5 to 11	39.2	42.0	25.5
12 to 14	22.9	22.0	27.5
15 to 18	40.5	40.0	43.1
19 to 23	23.9	23.1	27.5

### **Children - Participation in Programs**

Just under half (46%) of the children in the households surveyed participate in some type of recreation program or organized sport activity. Participation in youth sports programs and church groups has remained stable since 1991.

<b>Have Your Children Been Active in Recreation Programs or Organized Sports within the Past 12 Months – 2003</b>									
	<b>Total Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Yes	46.3%	68.4%	57.7%	55.9%	28.3%	47.6%	37.7%	48.5%	37.1%
No	53.7	31.6	42.3	44.1	71.7	52.4	62.3	51.5	62.9

<b>What Organization are Your Children Most Active - 2003</b> (Base = Respondents with Children in Activities)									
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Total Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Church Groups	29.6%	23.1%	33.3%	47.4%	38.5%	20.0%	10.0%	31.3%	46.2%
Youth Sports Association	27.5	38.5	53.3	26.3	38.5	15.0	20.0	18.8	7.7
YMCA/YWCA	26.1	26.9	13.3	10.5	23.1	50.0	35.0	31.3	7.7
City of Fort Worth PACSD Youth Sports Events	12.0	7.7	33.3	10.5	7.7	5.0	0.0	12.5	30.8
Fort Worth Youth Soccer Assoc.	9.9	19.2	13.3	0.0	23.1	10.0	0.0	0.0	15.4
Other	31.0	30.8	13.3	31.6	7.7	35.0	55.0	25.0	38.5

### **Age of Respondent**

Park users are younger than non-park users. Respondents surveyed closely mirror that of the 2000 Census, indicating a representative sample of Fort Worth residents were included in the survey.

<b>Age of Respondent</b>						
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2000 Census</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users – 2003</b>	
					<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Under 30	18.6%	16.0%	20.2%	12.5%	20.2%	14.0%
31 to 40	21.7	16.0	25.8	23.9	25.1	11.3
41 to 50	21.8	20.5	20.1	32.8	23.3	17.3
51 to 60	16.7	17.7	14.8	13.0	15.8	19.3
Over 60	20.5	29.0	18.2	17.7	15.6	37.4
<b>Mean Age</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>52.2</b>

### **Disabilities in Household**

A total of 17% of the respondents reported someone within the household has a disability, an increase of almost 3% since 1997. Among respondents, 32% find PACSD facilities handicapped accessible, a significant decline from 62% in 2001. Another 19% (no change since 2001) reported that in some cases the parks and facilities were accessible, but not always. Only 13% said the parks and facilities were not accessible compared to

16% in 2001. Park users find parks more handicapped accessible than those who do not use parks. Many non-park users do not know if parks and facilities are handicapped accessible.

<b>Does Anyone in Your Household Have a Disability?</b>					
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users - 2001</b>	
				<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Yes	16.7%	14.0%	13.8%	14.9%	22.0%
No	83.3	86.0	86.1	85.1	78.0

<b>Do You Find PACSD Facilities Handicapped Accessible?</b> <i>(Base = Person with Disability in Household)</i>			
	<b>2003</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Yes	32.0%	38.8%	18.2%
In some cases but not always	19.0	19.4	18.2
No	13.0	16.4	6.1
Don't Know	36.0	25.4	57.6

### **Ethnicity of Respondent**

The survey included a representative sample of all ethnic groups.

<b>Ethnicity of Respondent by Park Planning District – 2003</b>									
	<b>Total Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
White	55.5%	51.3%	27.3%	54.7%	35.1%	76.7%	71.4%	71.2%	57.3%
African American	24.3	25.0	66.2	40.0	9.5	11.0	7.8	17.8	16.0
Hispanic	17.5	18.4	5.2	4.0	55.4	8.2	18.2	8.2	22.7
Asian	1.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.3	2.7	0.0
Other	1.7	2.6	1.3	1.3	0.0	2.7	1.3	0.0	4.0

<b>Ethnicity of Respondent – Comparative Analysis</b>						
					<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users – 2003</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2000 Census</b>	<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
White	55.5%	62.3%	64.8%	45.9%	56.0%	54.0%
African American	24.3	19.0	16.6	19.9	23.3	27.3
Hispanic	17.5	16.3	15.1	30.6	17.8	16.7
Other	2.7	2.3	2.6	3.6	2.9	2.0

### **Annual Household Income**

The mean annual household income among all respondents is \$49,400. Park users had slightly higher incomes compared with non-park users (\$51,700 versus \$42,800)

<b>Annual Household Income by Park Planning District – 2003</b>									
	<b>Total Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Less than \$20,000	16.3%	5.3%	41.6%	21.3%	21.6%	1.4%	1.3%	13.7%	24.0%
\$20,000-\$24,999	5.7	7.9	5.2	9.3	8.1	0.0	3.9	5.5	5.3
\$25,000-\$34,999	12.0	7.9	16.9	17.3	12.2	2.7	10.4	15.1	13.3
\$35,000-\$49,999	16.5	13.2	16.9	25.3	17.6	17.8	16.9	9.6	14.7
\$50,000-\$99,999	21.3	21.1	5.2	14.7	16.2	45.2	36.4	12.3	20.0
\$100,000 and Over	6.8	1.3	0.0	2.7	1.4	15.1	11.7	12.3	10.7
Refused	21.3	43.4	14.3	9.3	23.0	17.8	19.5	31.5	12.0
<b>Mean Income (000's)</b>	<b>\$49.4</b>	<b>\$49.4</b>	<b>\$27.5</b>	<b>\$39.3</b>	<b>\$38.9</b>	<b>\$74.6</b>	<b>\$66.1</b>	<b>\$53.4</b>	<b>\$49.3</b>

<b>Annual Household Income – Comparative Analysis</b>						
					<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users – 2003</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2000 Census</b>	<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Under \$20,000	16.3%	18.5%	18.4%	24.6%	13.1%	26.0%
\$20,000-\$24,999	5.7	6.7	10.0	7.7	5.3	6.7
\$25,000-\$34,999	12.0	9.5	13.9	14.6	12.4	10.7
\$35,000-\$49,999	16.5	13.8	16.2	17.5	17.6	13.3
\$50,000 and over	28.1	25.1	25.3	35.6	30.0	22.6
<b>Mean Income (000's)</b>	<b>\$49.4</b>	<b>\$46.8</b>	<b>\$43.4</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>\$51.7</b>	<b>\$42.8</b>

<b>Gender of Respondent</b>					
				<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users – 2001</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Female	57.7%	58.2%	59.1%	57.6%	58.0%
Male	42.3	41.8	40.9	42.4	42.0

### **General Demographic Description - Each PPD**

PPD 1 - Average age 43 years, 51% White, 25% are African American, 18% Hispanic, high average income \$49,400, 82% are park users.

PPD 2 - Average age 51.2 years, predominately African American, with 27% White, and 5% Hispanic, low average income \$27,460, 73% are park users.

PPD 3 - Average age 49.6 years, 55% White, 40% are African American, 4% are Hispanic, average income \$39,260, 69% are park users.

PPD 4 - Average age 42.1 years, predominately Hispanic, 35% are White, 10% are African American, low average income \$38,990, 66% are park users.

PPD 5 - Average age 40.7 years, predominately White with 11% African American and 8% Hispanic, average income \$74,630, 78% are park users.

PPD 6 - Has the youngest average age 38.5 years, predominately White, 8% African American with 18% Hispanic, high income \$66,130, 74% are park users.

PPD 7 - Average age 49.1 years, predominately White, 18% are African American and 8% Hispanic, average income \$53,350, 77% are park users.

PPD 8 - Average age 48.4 years, 57% White, 23% Hispanic, 16% African American, average income \$49,280, 81% are park users.



## SUMMARY OF KEY SURVEY FINDINGS YOUTH SURVEY RESULTS

The summary presented herein outlines the survey results of youth park users which represented 182 respondents who participated in the survey. A total of 87% of respondents were park users. The youth survey results are presented in the executive summary as a city-wide summary and only notations of significant differences between Park Planning Districts will be presented. Detailed technical tables of the youth survey results by PPD can be found in Appendix B in the Technical Report.

### **Rating of Parks**

All youth respondents were asked to rate the parks, recreation opportunities and open spaces in Fort Worth. Park users generally rated the park system as excellent to good. Half of the non-park users could not rate the park system. Park Planning District (PPD) number four had the highest mean rating score of 3.20.

<b>2003 Rating of Fort Worth Parks, Recreation Opportunities and Open Spaces</b>						
<b>Park Rating</b>	<b>All Respondents</b>		<b>Park Users</b>		<b>Park Non-Users</b>	
	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Adults</b>
Excellent (4)	18.7%	11.0%	20.1%	14.2%	8.7%	1.3%
Good (3)	48.9	52.8	51.6	61.3	30.4	27.3
Somewhat Unsatisfactory (2)	14.3	14.5	13.2	14.4	21.7	14.7
Poor (1)	5.5	3.8	5.0	3.3	8.7	5.3
Don't know/no opinion	12.6	17.8	10.1	6.7	30.4	51.3
Mean Score	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>

69% of non-park users reported they know where some of Fort Worth parks are located. The primary reasons youth non-park users do not use parks are no free time (26%), no transportation to parks (17%) and no neighborhood park nearby (13%).

### **Frequency of Park Usage**

The results below present the youth respondents' frequency of park use, which included use of parks, hike/bike/walk trails, and recreation or athletic facilities. The youth respondents use parks and facilities slightly more than the adult respondents reported in the 2001, 1997 and 1991 surveys. Park use on a regular basis is highest in PPD numbers 2, 3 and 4 where 92%, 96% and 90% respectively use parks on a regular basis. (City-wide park use among all adult respondents was 75% compared to 87% for youth respondents).

<b>Frequency of Park Use</b>	<b>2003 Youth</b>	<b>2003 Adults</b>
Use on a regular basis	31.9%	34.0%
Use but not very often	55.5	41.0
Used previously but not anymore	3.8	12.2
Do not use these facilities	8.8	12.8

### **Park Facilities - Usage**

Swimming pools, outdoor basketball courts, playground equipment, community centers and practice fields are the park facilities used most among youth park users. Usage has increased the most for swimming pools (17%) and basketball courts (10%). Other facilities that had small usage increases included playgrounds, practice fields, the Botanic Garden, and Log Cabin Village.

<b>Park Facilities Used at Least Monthly</b>			
<b>Response Among Youth</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1997</b>
1. Swimming Pools	<b>51.6%</b>	34.2%	10.2%
2. Outdoor Basketball Courts	<b>48.4</b>	38.3	19.2
3. Playgrounds	<b>48.4</b>	46.6	47.1
4. Community Centers	40.3	47.1	11.7
5. Fields for practice	<b>37.1</b>	36.6	20.1
6. Fields for organized sports	35.2	36.1	20.7
7. Hike/bike/walk trails	34.0	N/A	N/A
8. Botanic Gardens	<b>20.1</b>	18.2	10.8
9. Fort Worth Zoo	19.5	22.3	9.6
10. Organized programs/classes	18.9	37.0	8.4
11. Tennis Courts	15.1	20.6	7.8
12. Water Gardens	14.5	18.7	6.6
13. Fort Worth's municipal golf courses	13.2	N/A	N/A
14. Log Cabin Village	<b>13.2</b>	11.9	0.9
15. Nature Center	13.2	17.3	3.9

## **Community Centers**

Of those respondents who use the community centers' facilities or participate in programs, a majority reported the facilities were clean, safe and customer service was good.

<b>Is there a City of Fort Worth Community Center in Your Area of the City – Youth 2003</b>									
	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Yes	68.1%	68.3%	76.9%	81.5%	90.0%	69.2%	0.0%	65.6%	51.7%
No	31.9	31.7	23.1	18.5	10.0	30.8	100.0	34.4	48.3

<b>Do You Use the Community Center for Any of the Following: – Youth 2003</b>									
	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Participate in Programs	49.2%	42.9%	65.0%	59.1%	44.4%	55.6%	0.0%	47.6%	26.7%
Use the Facilities	41.9	39.3	60.0	31.8	22.2	22.2	0.0	47.6	53.3
Do Not Use the Center at All	21.0	32.1	5.0	13.6	33.3	22.2	0.0	14.3	33.3

<b>How Would You Describe Your Experience at the Community Center – Youth 2003</b>									
	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by PPD</b>							
		<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>PPD 6</b>	<b>PPD 7</b>	<b>PPD 8</b>
Facilities were clean	85.7%	78.9%	78.9%	89.5%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	83.3%	90.0%
I felt safe at the facility	73.5	89.5	68.4	73.7	83.3	71.4	0.0	66.7	60.0
Customer service was good	83.7	78.9	73.7	89.5	100.0	85.7	0.0	83.3	90.0
Facilities were unclean	14.3	21.1	21.1	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	10.0
I felt unsafe at the facility	26.5	10.5	31.6	26.3	16.7	28.6	0.0	33.3	40.0
Customer service needs improvement	16.3	21.1	26.3	10.5	0.0	14.3	0.0	16.7	10.0

The facilities and programs needed at City of Fort Worth community centers are presented in order of preference in the table below. Comparisons are presented for the adult responses.

<b>Facilities and Programs Needed at a City of Fort Worth Community Center (Park Users)</b>		
<b>Facilities/Programs</b>	<b>2003 Youth</b>	<b>2003 Adults</b>
1. Indoor Swimming Pool	55.5%	54.0%
2. Youth Sports Programs	44.7	55.6
3. Game Rooms	42.1	36.9
4. Weight Room	39.0	44.4
5. Gymnasium	34.6	50.9
6. Extreme Sports	34.0	16.4
7. Arts and Crafts Programs	28.9	42.9
8. Day Camps	28.9	40.2
9. Adult Sports Programs	29.6	46.2
10. Late Night Programs	23.3	21.1
11. Multipurpose Rooms	20.1	48.0
12. Senior Citizen Programs	21.4	53.3
13. Gang Intervention/Prevention Programs	18.2	36.7
14. Police Storefront at Center	18.9	34.7
15. Racquetball/Squash Courts	13.8	22.7

Youth and adults both rated indoor pools, youth sports programs, game rooms, weight rooms and gymnasiums as needed facilities in a community center. However, the adults placed higher preferences than youth on senior programs, multipurpose rooms, adult programs, day camps and arts and craft programs.

### **Facilities Needed at Parks**

The following table outlines the park facilities in order of ranked importance as being needed in Fort Worth parks. The mean score is calculated as follows: 3 = definitely needed, 2 = somewhat needed and 1 = not at all needed. Those who were not familiar or could not rate a facility were excluded from the mean score calculation.

Youth and adults both rated benches/seating areas, playgrounds, picnic shelters/tables and open space/natural areas as top priorities as needed facilities in Fort Worth parks. Youth also listed an indoor pool, basketball courts and an outdoor pool as priorities while the adults did not list these facilities in the top ten. The numbers in parenthesis represent the top five ranked responses by the adult respondents.

<b>Fort Worth Park Facilities Needed (Park Users) – 2003</b>		
<b>Facility</b>	<b>2003 Youth</b>	<b>2003 Adults</b>
1. Benches/seating areas	2.52	2.67 (2)
2. Indoor pool	2.51	2.33
3. Playground equipment	2.51	2.67 (3)
4. Basketball courts	2.49	2.39
5. Restrooms (in parks over 100 acres)	2.48	2.74 (1)
6. Outdoor pool	2.43	2.39
7. Open space/natural areas	2.43	2.57 (5)
8. Picnic shelters/tables	2.43	2.64 (4)
9. Parking	2.42	2.53
10. Athletic practice fields	2.38	2.29
11. Ball fields (soccer, football, baseball)	2.37	2.37
12. Nature trails	2.35	2.55
13. Nature preserves	2.33	2.54
14. Lighting	2.31	2.57 (5)
15. Hike/bike/walk trails	2.27	2.50
16. Lighted athletic courts/fields	2.25	2.39
17. Concession facilities (in parks over 100 acres)	2.20	2.06
18. Educational programs	2.19	2.41
19. In-line skating/skateboarding	2.19	2.07
20. Soccer fields	2.15	2.35
21. Portable toilets (in parks less than 100 acres)	2.14	2.51
22. Greenbelts connecting parks	2.12	2.36
23. Tennis Courts	2.07	2.17
24. Volleyball courts	2.04	2.00
25. Ice hockey rink	1.99	1.72

### **Park Maintenance**

Only about one-third of the youth respondents felt the parks had adequate maintenance, yet another one-third felt more maintenance was needed. More than one-fourth of the youth respondents could not rate the park maintenance.

<b>Rating of Fort Worth Parks Upkeep and Maintenance</b>		
<b>Responses-Park Users</b>	<b>2003 Youth</b>	<b>2003 Adults</b>
Adequate Maintenance	37.1%	55.8%
More Maintenance Needed	33.3	33.1
Less Maintenance Needed	0.6	0.7
Don't Know/Can't Rate	28.9	10.4

### **Security in Fort Worth Parks**

More than half of the youth respondents felt the parks are safe in Fort Worth, compared to 39% in 2001. Even though the youth respondents are active park users, one in five could not rate the security in Fort Worth parks. This statistic shows an increase in park safety among youth. This question was asked differently in the 1997 survey, and therefore, the statistics are not comparable.

<b>Park Safety</b>		
<b>Response Among Youth Park Users</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>
I think the parks are safe	53.5%	39.3%
I think the parks are unsafe	27.0	25.1
Don't know/can't rate	19.5	35.6

### **Out of Town Visitor Use of Parks**

A majority of the youth and adult respondents have taken out of town visitors to the Fort Worth Zoo and Botanic Garden. Other parks frequented often were the Water Gardens, Trinity Park and Forest Park.

<b>Out of Town Visitor Use of Parks</b>		
<b>Response – Park Users</b>	<b>2003 Youth</b>	<b>2003 Adults</b>
Fort Worth Zoo	54.7%	63.1%
Botanic Garden	30.8	60.2
Water Gardens	21.4	45.8
Forest Park	23.3	26.2
Trinity Park	23.3	34.9
No out of town visitors	8.2	11.6
Do not take visitors to parks	13.2	6.4

### **Special Events**

The table below presents the special events the youth respondents have attended. Comparisons to the 1997 and the 1991 adult survey are also shown where applicable. Youth respondents participate most in Mayfest, sporting events at parks and summer day camps. The numbers in parenthesis represent the top five ranked responses by the adult respondents.

<b>Special Events Attended</b>		
<b>Response – Park Users</b>	<b>2003 Youth</b>	<b>2003 Adults</b>
1. Mayfest	38.4%	(38.4%)
2. Sporting Events in the Parks	30.2	(27.3)
3. Summer Day Camps	42.8	5.3
4. Special Events at Botanic Garden	13.2	(32.2)
5. Concerts in the Garden	12.6	(24.4)
6. Special Events at the Nature Center	6.9	8.7
7. City Sponsored Golf Tournaments	11.9	1.3
8. Other	0.6	1.3
None of the Above	10.1	32.4
No Answer/Don't Recall	10.1	0.4

### **Information About Parks and Recreation Activities**

Most youth respondents obtain information about parks and recreation activities from driving by, family/friends, schools and the newspaper. Adults also obtain information about parks from driving by, family/friends and the newspaper. The numbers in parenthesis represent the top five ranked responses by the adult respondents.

<b>How Do You Obtain Information About Parks and Recreation Opportunities</b>		
<b>Response Park Users</b>	<b>2003 Youth</b>	<b>2003 Adults</b>
1. Drive by and see it	49.1%	(35.3%)
2. Family/friends	29.6	(28.2)
3. Schools	28.9	5.3
4. Newspaper	13.8	(28.0)
5. City of Fort Worth website	8.8	6.0
6. Television	8.2	3.8
7. Local cable television	6.9	1.1
8. Radio	5.7	4.7
9. Brochures/handouts	5.0	6.4
10. <i>City Page</i> in Monday's paper	3.8	(8.4)
11. Call Park Department	3.8	2.9
12. Don't know how to find out	5.0	(10.0)

<p align="center"><b>DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS ALL YOUTH SURVEY RESPONDENTS</b></p>
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The following information presents the demographic characteristics of all 182 youth respondents surveyed.

**Length Lived in Fort Worth**

Half of the youth respondents have lived in Fort Worth over ten years while 13% have resided in Fort Worth less than five years.

<b>How Long Have You Lived in Fort Worth – 2003</b>			
<b>Number of Years</b>	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users - Youth</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Less than 5 Years	13.2%	12.6%	17.4%
5 to 10 Years	20.3	20.1	21.7
11 to 20 Years	66.5	67.3	60.9
20 to 30 years	0.0	0.0	0.0
Over 30 years	0.0	0.0	0.0
No Answer	0.0	0.0	0.0

**Household Size**

The youth respondents surveyed are generally from larger households.

<b>Household Size – 2003</b>			
	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users - Youth</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
One	2.2%	1.9%	4.3%
Two	8.2	8.2	8.7
Three	25.8	27.0	17.4
Four	29.1	27.0	43.5
Five	15.9	16.4	13.0
Six or more	18.7	19.5	13.0

**Do You Participate in Programs/Activities**

A total of 65% of the youth respondents participate in some type of recreation program or organized sports activity, an increase from 55% in 2001.



<b>Do You Participate in Recreation Programs/Organized Sports Activity - 2003</b>			
	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Yes	64.8%	69.2%	34.8%
No	35.2	30.8	65.2

<b>Which Recreation Programs/Organized Sports Activities Do You Participate In - 2003</b>			
<b>Program/Activity</b>	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Youth Sports Association	34.7%	35.5%	25.0%
Fort Worth Youth Soccer Association	16.1	16.4	12.5
Church Groups	23.7	23.6	25.0
YMCA/YWCA	31.4	30.9	37.5
Other	10.2	10.9	0.0
City of Fort Worth PACSD Sports Event	19.5	19.1	25.0

### **Age of Youth Respondent**

The youth survey captured a wide range of ages.

<b>Age of Youth Respondent – 2003</b>			
<b>Age Category</b>	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Under 10	2.2%	2.5%	0.0%
11 to 12	49.5	49.1	52.2
13 to 14	19.2	18.9	21.7
15 to 16	15.4	15.7	13.0
17 to 18	13.7	13.8	13.0
Over 18	0.0	0.0	0.0

### **Disability**

One-fifth of the youth respondents reported they or someone in their household had a disability. Half of those reporting a disability within the household generally find parks handicapped accessible. Another 28% felt the parks were not always handicapped accessible.

<b>Does Anyone in Your Household Have a Disability? – 2003</b>			
	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Yes	22.0%	23.3%	13.0%
No	78.0	76.7	87.0

<b>Do You or Other Members of Your Household Find Fort Worth Parks/Recreation Programs Handicapped Accessible? – 2003</b>			
	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Yes	15.0%	16.2%	0.0%
In some cases but not always	35.0	32.4	66.7
No	27.5	27.0	33.3
Don't Know	22.5	24.3	0.0

### **Ethnicity of Youth Respondents**

A high percentage of the youth survey sample is African American and Hispanic.

<b>Ethnicity – 2003</b>			
	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
White	24.7%	24.5%	26.1%
African American	34.1	36.5	17.4
Spanish Origin	28.0	27.0	34.8
Asian	2.2	1.3	8.7
Other/mixed race	10.9	10.7	13.0

### **Gender**

Slightly more males than females responded to the youth survey.

<b>Gender of Youth Respondent – 2003</b>			
	<b>Total Youth Sample</b>	<b>Survey Results by Park Users and Non-Users</b>	
		<b>Park Users</b>	<b>Non-Park Users</b>
Male	51.6%	53.5%	39.1%
Female	48.4	46.5	60.9

## **CITY OF FORT WORTH 2003 CITIZEN SURVEY**

ETC Institute, a Kansas corporation, performed the 2003 DirectionFinder Citizen Survey for the City of Fort Worth. The survey instrument was developed with input from City leaders and designed to provide an objective assessment of progress on the implementation of the City's Strategic Goals and Objectives. A random sample was taken of more than 1,700 households with a margin of error of plus or minus 2.7% at a 95% confidence level. At least 200 surveys were completed in each Council District. For the purpose of this report, only the Parks and Community Services data was extracted for analysis and includes a benchmark of Fort Worth's results against a number of other major cities across the nation of similar size and services. Additionally, some comparison data from the 2004 Needs Assessment Survey is reintroduced to provide a more complete assessment of the citizens' responses.

### **SURVEY RESULTS**

#### Top Priority for City Parks

A unanimous majority, 85.0%, of the survey respondents stated that the top priority for City parks should be repairs/upgrades to existing parks, 61.2% and acquisition of land and development of new parks, 24.3%. Similarly, a majority of Needs Assessment respondents are in favor of park development and acquisition.

#### Adequacy of Security Lighting and Safety in City Parks

A majority, 25.0%, of survey respondents stated they do not know whether or not park security lighting is adequate. Another 24.2% stated they are neutral on the subject matter. The 21.3% who are aware stated they are somewhat satisfied with the security lighting in City parks. While the 24.2% stated they are neutral in respect to feeling safe in City parks, 23.8% indicated they feel safe. An overwhelming 66.0% of the Needs Assessment survey respondents stated they would like more visible security in City parks.

#### Mowing and Trimming of Parks

The majority of survey respondents, 58.4%, stated they are very/somewhat satisfied with the mowing and trimming of City parks. This dataset corresponds with that of the Needs Assessment's results, 56.0%.

#### Maintenance of City Parks and Community Centers

Survey respondents, 57.4%, indicated they are somewhat/very satisfied with the maintenance of City parks. Another 39.5% stated they are very/somewhat satisfied with the maintenance and appearance of the City's community centers. Likewise, 92.0% of Needs Assessment survey respondents rated our community centers as outstanding or satisfactory.

### Availability of Meeting Space

A majority of the survey respondents, 32.1%, indicated they are unaware of the availability of meeting space at certain park facilities. However, 48.0% of Needs Assessment respondents who are aware of our meeting space availability stated there is a need for multipurpose rooms.

### Quality of facilities at City Parks

A majority, 31.7% of respondents indicated they are somewhat satisfied with the quality of facilities at City parks while a majority, 63.8%, of Needs Assessment survey respondents rated our park facilities as good or excellent.

### Parks, Walking/Biking Trails, Outdoor/Indoor Swimming Pools, and City Golf Courses

A majority, 44.5%, of the respondents stated they are somewhat/very satisfied with the number of parks in the City. Another majority stated their satisfaction with the number of walking/biking trails available in the park system. In a separate question, 33.1%, of the survey respondents stated they are unaware of outdoor swimming pools in their area and another 39.8% responded they are unaware of indoor swimming pools in their area. Results from the Needs Assessment study, 51.6%, show that swimming pools were among the most used facilities in our park and recreation system.

Another majority, 36.2%, stated they are unaware of City golf courses in their area. However, 33.1% of those respondents who are aware of City golf courses in their area state they are satisfied with the facilities. Of note, Needs Assessment survey results revealed City golf courses received the highest facility satisfaction rating, a mean score of 2.2 out of a possible 3.0.

### Quality of Outdoor Athletic Fields, City's Youth and Adult Athletic Programs

While a majority, 28.7%, of survey respondents indicated they are unaware of outdoor athletic fields in their area, those who are aware of such facilities, 37.1%, stated they are very/somewhat satisfied with the quality of those fields. One majority, 39.8% stated they are unaware of PACSD youth athletic programs in their area. Similarly, a majority of the survey respondents, 42.8%, indicated they are unaware of the City's adult athletic programs.

### Summer Recreation Programs and Ease of Registering for those Programs

A majority of the survey respondents, 42.4%, stated they are unaware of the City's summer recreation programs while the 21.1% who are aware responded they are neutral on the issue. Consequentially, 43.8% stated they did not know whether or not registering for the summer recreation programs is easy. Those who indicate they are aware of the registration process, likewise, 23.2%, replied they are neutral on the issue.

### Renovating/Adding Facilities to City Parks

The majority, 77.2%, of survey respondents state they are very/somewhat supportive of renovating/adding facilities to parks in the City. An almost equal amount of survey respondents stated they are for and against the construction of skate parks. Another majority, 52.8%, of the survey respondents stated they are very/somewhat supportive of developing water parks in the City.

### Quality of Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities

A majority, 55.4%, of the respondents stated they are very/somewhat satisfied with the quality of City of Fort Worth parks and recreation programs and facilities. Likewise, 64.0% of Needs Assessment survey respondents rated our park system as good or excellent.

### **SUMMARY**

The ETC Institute DirectionFinder Citizen Survey has reaffirmed our citizen's satisfaction with the level of services and facilities available through the Parks and Community Services Department as supported by the 2004 Needs Assessment Study. However, it appears that the general survey population is unaware of the variety of services and facilities available for their use specifically through the Parks and Community Services Department. It can also be generalized that the survey respondents are unaware of the services and facilities we provide simply because they choose not to use them.



## **Section VII: Plan Implementation and Prioritization of Needs**

The priorities, recommendations and schedule established in this section are derived from the inventory, level of service measurements and revised Park Planning Districts (PPD). The criteria established for evaluation of the priorities are based on an analysis of the available resources identified in the inventory, the needs and desires of the citizens identified in the 2004 Needs Assessment Study, and the degree to which each recommendation meets the vision and mission of the goals and objectives of the citizens and the Department.

For each PPD, priorities are determined by merging the responses of City-wide responses, the 2004 Needs Assessment Study for that PPD, youth ideas and input from the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board. An equal rating of users and non-users on frequency of use and areas needing improvement were used to identify the desires for each PPD.

From the review of each Park Planning District's priorities, a City-wide recommendation is established which will act as a guide for park planning over the next five to ten years. Priorities and recommendations are set in three classifications: high, medium and low. Progress towards implementation of the Master Plan will be measured in the annual Departmental Business Plan by the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board. This annual review process will keep the recommendations of the plan active and in the minds of all parties associated with the successful implementation of the recommendations.

Like all plans, this plan is a guide to the future of the park system. There will be unforeseen changes in conditions which will cause the Department and Park Board to change recommendations and reevaluate priorities and scheduling.

### **FIVE-YEAR PLAN PRIORITIES**

The following pages contain a City-wide and then Park Planning District specific priorities. The data provided identifies 1) land needs and desires, 2) priorities of facilities and 3) facility needs to meet Fort Worth standards.

### **PLAN OBJECTIVES**

- Enhance the existing park system so that it will continue to contribute to the positive image, form and appearance of the City.
- Improve the diverse variety of park, recreation and open space opportunities available to all segments of the population.
- Provide safe and secure park facilities and programs throughout the City of Fort Worth that offer citizens a positive experience.
- Ensure equity of facilities, programs and services across all areas of Fort Worth.
- Address repair, renovation, and restoration of existing facilities and develop new park facilities that create value for the citizens.
- Develop/upgrade drainage and erosion control plans to reduce flooding in community parks.

- Ensure road replacement and parking lot projects in community parks receive adequate attention.
- Build and enhance community partnerships to deliver quality services and facilities.
- Preserve and enhance the City's valuable natural resources that will build public advocacy and support.
- Respond to national trends and new visions in park and recreational activities.

## CITY-WIDE PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Utilizing the aforementioned plan objectives and the emphasis to take care of and renovate existing facilities prior to construction of new amenities (noted in survey responses in the 2004 Needs Assessment Study) the following City-wide priorities were developed to address the needs and desires of Fort Worth citizens.

### A. High Priority Items

1. Replacement or renovation of existing playground facilities: Replace or renovate existing playgrounds where they have deteriorated or become hazardous. Playground equipment replacement should include the following 36 park sites:

Bonnie Brae	Hallmark	Silver Sage
Buck Sansom	Handley	South Z. Boaz
Cobb Park North	Hulen Meadows	Springdale
Cobb Park South	Leonard	Sunset Hills
Como Community Center	Mesa Verde	Sunset
Diamond Hill	Newby	Sycamore Community Center
Eastbrook	Oakland Lake	Tadlock
Eastern Hills	Paz Hernandez	Tandy Hills
Englewood	Rodeo	Thomas Place
Fire Station	Rosemont	Trail Drivers
Gateway	Rosenthal	Wedgwood
George Markos	Seminary Hills	Westwind



2. Park Road/Parking Lot Replacement: This project consists of parking lot and road replacement in 23 community parks.

Botanic Garden	Far Northside	Haws Athletic Center	Rockwood
Buck Sansom	Tri-Ethnic	Kellis	Rolling Hills
Carter	Forest	Lake Como	Trinity
Collett	Foster	Marine	Village Creek
Como Community Center	Greenbriar	Northside	Fort Worth
Diamond Hill	Greenway	Prairie Dog	Nature Center & Refuge

## B. Medium Priority Items

1. New Community Centers: Construct new community centers in Park Planning Districts 1, 2 and 5. Community centers are intended to serve a number of neighborhoods and provide a variety of indoor recreation and community service programs and activities. Typical community center facilities include gymnasiums, activity areas and meeting rooms.

Far Northeast                      Southside                      Far Southwest

2. Replace Deteriorated Ballfield Lighting: Replace athletic field lighting systems where the existing lighting facilities are in poor condition and slated for removal. Lighting system replacements to occur at the following 11 park sites:

Chamberlin	Riverside
Collet	Rockwood
Harmon Field	Rodeo
Hillside	Sylvania
Martin Luther King	Trail Drivers
Oakland Lake	
Upgrade to a Centralized Computer Lighting Control	

3. Trail Bridges or Structural Renovation: Replacement of trail bridges or structural renovations at 3 park sites:

Buck Sansom                      Foster                      Marine Creek Linear

4. Park Erosion and Drainage Control: Develop and execute plans to reduce and possibly eliminate flooding in community parks.

Forest	Harmon
Foster	Trinity
Cobb/Sycamore/Carter Study	
Overton Study and immediate Bank Stabilization	

## C. Low Priority Items

### 1. Walk and Trail Replacement:

Buck Sansom	Overton	Sycamore
Gateway Canoe Launch	Rosemont	Trinity Trail
Meadowood	Saunders	Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

### 2. Renovation of Existing Facilities

- a. Renovation of existing community centers to better meet the program needs and users desires

RD Evans Community Center	Northside Community Center
Hillside Community Center	Riverside Community Center

- b. New security lighting to be added and or replaced at 23 park sites to address high use areas and citizen desires. Those locations are as follows:

Ridglea	Oakland Lake	Arcadia – North	Oakmont Linear
Rosenthal	Forest	Arcadia – South	Lake Como
Patricia Le Blanc	Handley	Camp Joy	Overton
Far Northside	Southwest	Cobblestone Trail	Western Hill
Kellis	Thomas Place	Candleridge	Cobb
Crestwood	Arcadia	Hallmark	

3. New Walks and Trails Match Funds to Support Trinity River Vision: Provision of funds for grant match for federal and state projects to provide new pedestrian and bike corridors to support the Trinity River Vision in the Central City and for improved linkages to neighborhoods.

With the priorities and recommendations established for each classification, the City-wide interests have been further separated into Park Planning District priorities.

## PARK PLANNING DISTRICT 1

### LAND NEEDS

The City standard for parkland as identified in this Master Plan is 6.25 acres per 1,000 persons and is based on NRPA standards for parkland. As the calculations below reveal, the City of Fort Worth is exceeding the minimum 6.25 acre close-to-home parkland requirement per 1,000 population by at least two times.

2000 Census PPD 1 Population - 125,279  
1,581.67 Acres/1,000 Population = 12.63 Acres Provided

Future dedication of 105 acres of close-to-home parkland will increase parkland land service levels by 30 percent with eleven (11) currently underserved Neighborhood Park Units (NPU's) becoming served with close-to-home parkland. These dedications will occur over the next five to ten years and are the result of residential subdivision requirements according to the *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy*. Over half of this acreage will come on-line as active park sites with constructed facilities in place upon acceptance.

#### STANDARDS-BASED FACILITY NEEDS

By applying facility-based standards to the 2000 Census population, deficiencies were analyzed, assessed and are presented in Table VII-1 below.

<b>TABLE VII-1 STANDARDS-BASED FACILITY DEFICIENCIES – PPD 1</b>						
<b>PPD 1</b>	<b>Facilities Standard Met for 2000 POP</b>	<b>CFW Standard for 1 Facility per Modified NRPA Population</b>	<b>Existing Facilities March 2004</b>	<b>2000 POP (PPD 1)</b>	<b>2004 Need Based on 2000 POP Stats</b>	<b>Facilities Needed per 2004 Inventory</b>
Multi-use Slabs	NO	5,000	13	125,279	25	12
Competition Soccer Fields	NO	10,000	3	125,279	13	10
Tennis Courts	NO	5,000	15	125,279	25	10
Basketball Courts	NO	5,000	16	125,279	25	9
Competition Softball/Baseball	NO	12,000	3	125,279	10	7
Playgrounds	NO	4,000	28	125,279	31	3
Community Centers	NO	30,000	2	125,279	4	2
Hike and Bike Trails	YES	10,000	17	125,279	13	-4
Picnic Shelters	YES	10,000	107	125,279	13	-94
* Staff re-evaluated field classifications in August 2001 and reassigned some competition and practice field designations to more accurately reflect use.						

The results of the 2004 Needs Assessment are used for a variety of planning approaches to determine current and future needs. Most importantly, the information is used to measure the interests of the general population in each Park Planning District. Citizens in PPD 1 expressed a strong desire to have the following additional facilities in their parks: playgrounds, picnic shelters and benches/seating areas. Service wise, they expressed an interest in having additional youth sports and senior citizen programs at their community centers along with gymnasiums.

As the following list of 2004 Capital Improvement Program projects itemizes, it is highly likely that the Department will be able to address/fulfill the desires of the citizens in this PPD, as assessed from the 2004 Needs Assessment Study.

With deficiencies assessed, the Department was able to develop a plan driven by 2004 voter approved Capital Improvement Program bond funding to address capital needs. The following priorities are to be addressed in Park Planning District 1 over the next three to five years.

### Playground Replacements

Hallmark Park  
Hulen Meadows Park  
Newby Park

Rosenthal Park  
Wedgewood Park

### Trail Bridges or Structural Renovations Needed

Foster Park

### Walk and Trail Replacements

Overton Park

### Replacement of Existing Deteriorated Ballfield Lighting Systems

Oakland Lake Park

### Reserve Park Site Development

Cityview Park  
Dabney Park  
Oakmont Linear Park  
South Meadows Park

Southridge Park  
Summer Creek Ranch Park  
Willowcreek Park

### New Community Center

Far Southwest Community Center

### Roadways in Community Parks

Forest Park Parking Lot  
Forest Park

### Park Drainage and Erosion Control

Forest Park  
Overton Park Study and Immediate Bank Stabilization

## **PARK PLANNING DISTRICT 2**

### LAND NEEDS

The City standard for parkland as identified in this Master Plan is 6.25 acres per 1,000 persons and is based on NRPA standards for parkland. As the calculations below reveal, the City of Fort Worth

far exceeds the minimum 6.25 acre close-to-home parkland requirement per 1,000 population a little more than nine times over. The reason for this variance is that the 3,622 acre Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge is located in this PPD.

2000 Census PPD 2 Population - 73,709

4,390.98 Acres/1,000 Population = 59.57 Acres Provided

Future dedication of 300 acres\* of close-to-home parkland will increase land service levels by 26 percent with seven (7) currently underserved Neighborhood Park Units (NPU's) becoming served with close-to-home parkland. These dedications will occur over the next five to ten years and are the result of residential subdivision requirements according to the *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy*. Over half of this acreage will come on-line as active park sites with constructed facilities in place upon acceptance.

\* This number includes parkland dedication requirements of the Walsh Ranch, Bonds Ranch, and Chapel Hill communities. Each community will generate a 25,000 to 40,000 resident population and include internal community and neighborhood parkland. Build-out of these large planned communities will occur over fifteen (15) to twenty-five (25) years.

#### STANDARDS-BASED FACILITY NEEDS

By applying facility-based standards to the 2000 Census population, deficiencies were analyzed, assessed and are presented in Table VII-2 below.

<b>TABLE VII-2 STANDARDS-BASED FACILITY DEFICIENCIES – PPD 2</b>						
<b>PPD 2</b>	<b>Facilities Standard Met for 2000 POP</b>	<b>CFW Standard for 1 Facility per Modified NRPA Population</b>	<b>Existing Facilities in March 2004</b>	<b>2000 POP (PPD 2)</b>	<b>2004 Need Based on 2000 POP Stats</b>	<b>Facilities Needed per 2004 Inventory</b>
Basketball Courts	NO	5,000	7	73,709	15	8
Multi-use Slabs	NO	5,000	8	73,709	15	7
Competition Soccer Fields	NO	10,000	1	73,710	7	6
Hike and Bike Trails	NO	10,000	3	73,709	7	4
Playgrounds	NO	4,000	15	73,709	18	3
Competition Softball/Baseball	NO	12,000	4	73,709	6	2
Community Centers	NO	30,000	1	73,709	2	1
Picnic Shelters	YES	10,000	23	73,709	7	-16
* Staff re-evaluated field classifications in August 2001 and reassigned some competition and practice field designations to more accurately reflect use.						

The results of the 2004 Needs Assessment are used for a variety of planning approaches to determine current and future needs. Most importantly, the information is used to measure the interests of the general population in each Park Planning District. Citizens in PPD 2 expressed a strong desire to have the following additional facilities in their parks: playgrounds, restrooms in parks 100+ acres in size and open space/natural areas. Service wise, they expressed an interest in having additional senior citizen and youth sports programs at their community centers along with multi-purpose rooms.

Gaps in facility needs will be met through a variety of providers along with the City of Fort Worth. These providers include school districts, benefactors, not-or-profits, etc. With deficiencies assessed, the Department is able to develop a plan driven by 2004 voter approved Capital Improvement Program bond funding to address needs. The following priorities are to be addressed in Park Planning District 2 over the next three to five years.

#### Playground Replacements

George Markos Park

Mary and Marvin Leonard Park

Sunset Park

Thomas Place Park

#### Walk and Trail Replacements

Nature Center

Nature Center Boardwalk

#### Reserve Park Site Development

J.T. Hinkle Park

#### Roadways in Community Parks

Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge

### **Long-Range Opportunities**

The Lakeland Addition is an existing community located inside the boundary of the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge. The long-term vision would be for the City of Fort Worth to acquire as much of the Lakeland Addition as possible. This would allow for the Nature Center to be one contiguous piece of property. Until that time, the Lakeland Addition is to be treated similar to a gated community. The Parks and Community Services Department has proceeded to acquire property in the Lakeland Addition to add to the Nature Center, but it is the PACS Department policy to only acquire property in the area from those willing to sell.

### **PARK PLANNING DISTRICT 3**

#### LAND NEEDS

The City standard for parkland as identified in this Master Plan is 6.25 acres per 1,000 persons and is based on NRPA standards for parkland. As the calculations below reveal, the City of Fort Worth exceeds the minimum 6.25 acre close-to-home parkland requirement per 1,000 population a little more than two times over.

2000 Census PPD 3 Population - 58,048

772.70 Acres/1,000 Population = 13.31 Acres Provided

Future dedication of 130 acres of close-to-home parkland will increase land service levels by 33 percent with three (3) currently underserved Neighborhood Park Units (NPUs) and one (CPU) will become served with parkland. These dedications will occur over the next five to ten years and are the result of residential subdivision requirements according to the *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy*. Mallard Cove Park will be a combined Neighborhood/Community Park site acquired through a combination of acquisition, required dedication and donation. This site will serve residents east of Loop 820.

#### STANDARDS-BASED FACILITY NEEDS

By applying facility-based standards to the 2000 Census population, deficiencies were analyzed, assessed and are presented in TABLE VII-3.

<b>TABLE VII-3 STANDARDS-BASED FACILITY DEFICIENCIES – PPD 3</b>						
<b>PPD 3</b>	<b>Facilities Standard Met for 2000 POP</b>	<b>CFW Standard for 1 Facility per Modified NRPA Population</b>	<b>Existing Facilities in March 2004</b>	<b>2000 POP (PPD 3)</b>	<b>2004 Need Based on 2000 POP Stats</b>	<b>Facilities Needed per 2004 Inventory</b>
Tennis Courts	NO	5,000	6	58,048	12	6
Competition Soccer Fields	NO	10,000	1	58,048	6	5
Basketball Courts	NO	5,000	9	58,048	12	3
Hike and Bike Trails	NO	10,000	3	58,048	6	3
Multi-use Slabs	NO	5,000	10	58,048	12	2
Competition Softball/Baseball	NO	12,000	4	58,048	5	1
Community Centers	NO	30,000	1	58,048	2	1
Playgrounds	YES	4,000	17	58,048	15	-2
Picnic Shelters	YES	10,000	23	58,048	6	-17
* Staff re-evaluated field classifications in August 2001 and reassigned some competition and practice field designations to more accurately reflect use.						

The results of the 2004 Needs Assessment are used for a variety of planning approaches to determine current and future needs. Most importantly, the information is used to measure the interests of the general population in each Park Planning District. Citizens in PPD 3 expressed a strong desire to have the following additional facilities in their parks: restrooms in parks 100+ acres in size, lighting and portable toilets in parks 10-100 acres in size. Service wise, they expressed an interest in having additional youth sports and senior citizen programs at their community centers along with gymnasiums.

As the following list of 2004 Capital Improvement Program projects detail, it is highly unlikely that the Department will be able to address/fulfill the desires of the citizens in this PPD, as assessed from the 2004 Needs Assessment Study. This gap in facility desires will need to be met through other avenues such as grant opportunities, private donations, not-for-profits, etc.

With deficiencies assessed, the Department is able to develop a plan driven by 2004 voter approved Capital Improvement Program bond funding to address needs. The following priorities are to be addressed in Park Planning District 3 over the next three to five years.

### Playground Replacements

Bonnie Brae Park  
Eastbrook Park  
Handley Park  
Oakland Lake Park – East

Sunset Hills Park  
Tadlock Park  
Tandy Hills Park

### Reserve Park Site Development

Post Oak Village Park  
River Trails III Park

## **PARK PLANNING DISTRICT 4**

### LAND NEEDS

The City standard for parkland as identified in this Master Plan is 6.25 acres per 1,000 persons and is based on NRPA standards for parkland. As the calculations below reveal, the City of Fort Worth is exceeding the minimum 6.25 acre close-to-home parkland requirement per 1,000 population by at least two times over.

2000 Census PPD 4 Population - 239,202  
3,098.86 Acres/1,000 Population = 12.95 Acres Provided

Future dedication of 48 acres of close-to-home parkland will increase land service levels by 4 percent with three (3) currently underserved Neighborhood Park Units (NPUs) becoming served with close-to-home parkland. PPD 4 is largely built-out, with most residential development consisting of in-fill housing and adaptive reuse. Changes in the *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy* encourages more private open space development as redevelopment occurs in the Central City, as well as establishment of smaller pocket parks and renovation of existing facilities.

### STANDARDS-BASED FACILITY NEEDS

By applying facility-based standards to the 2000 Census population, deficiencies were analyzed, assessed and are presented in Table VII-4.



<b>TABLE VII-4 STANDARDS-BASED FACILITY DEFICIENCIES – PPD 4</b>						
<b>PPD 4</b>	<b>Facilities Standard Met for 2000 POP</b>	<b>CFW Standard for 1 Facility per Modified NRPA Population</b>	<b>Existing Facilities in March 2004</b>	<b>2000 POP (PPD 4)</b>	<b>2004 Need Based on 2000 POP Stats</b>	<b>Facilities Needed per 2004 Inventory</b>
Competition Soccer Fields	NO	10,000	20	239,202	24	4
Hike and Bike Trails	NO	10,000	21	239,202	24	3
Community Centers	YES	30,000	15	239,202	8	-7
Playgrounds	YES	4,000	70	239,202	60	-10
Competition Softball/Baseball	YES	12,000	34	239,202	20	-14
Tennis Courts	YES	5,000	63	239,202	48	-15
Basketball Courts	YES	5,000	68	239,202	48	-20
Multi-use Slabs	YES	5,000	71	239,202	48	-23
Picnic Shelters	YES	10,000	104	239,202	24	-80
* Staff re-evaluated field classifications in August 2001 and reassigned some competition and practice field designations to more accurately reflect use.						

The results of the 2004 Needs Assessment are used for a variety of planning approaches to determine current and future needs. Most importantly, the information is used to measure the interests of the general population in each Park Planning District. Citizens in PPD 4 expressed a strong desire to have the following additional facilities in their parks: restrooms in parks 100+ acres, picnic shelters, benches/seating areas and playgrounds. Service wise, they expressed an interest in having additional gymnasiums at their community centers along with multi-purpose rooms and youth sports and senior citizen programs.

As the following list of 2004 Capital Improvement Program projects itemizes, it is highly likely that the Department will be able to address/fulfill the core facility and program desires of the citizens in this PPD, as assessed from the 2004 Needs Assessment Study.

With deficiencies assessed, the Department is able to develop a plan driven by 2004 voter approved Capital Improvement Program bond funding to address needs. The following priorities are to be addressed in Park Planning District 4 over the next three to five years.

#### Playground Replacements

Buck Sansom Park  
Cobb Park North  
Cobb Park South  
Como Community Center Park  
Diamond Hill Park  
Eastern Hills Park  
Englewood Park  
Fire Station Park  
Gateway Park

Paz Hernandez Park  
Rodeo Park  
Rosemont Park  
Seminary Hills Park  
South Z. Boaz Park  
Sycamore Community Center Park  
Trail Drivers Park  
Westwind Park

### Trail Bridges or Structural Renovations Needed

Buck Sansom Park  
Marine Creek Linear Park

### Walk and Trail Replacements

Buck Sansom Park	Rosemont Park
Gateway Park Canoe Launch	Saunders Park
Meadowood Park	Sycamore Park

### Replacement of Existing Competition Athletic Fields

Chamberlin Park	Rockwood Park Field 2
Ed K. Collett Park	Rockwood Park Field 3
Gateway Park Soccer Field 1	Rockwood Park Field 4
Gateway Park Soccer Field 2	Rolling Hills Soccer Field 16
Harmon Soccer Field 4	Rolling Hills Soccer Field 17
Harmon Field Park	Rolling Hills Soccer Field 18
Rockwood Park Field 1	

### Replacement of Existing Deteriorated Ball Field Lighting Systems

Chamberlin Park	Riverside Park
Ed K. Collett Park	Rockwood Park Field 3
Harmon Field Park	Rodeo Park
Hillside Park	Sylvania Park
Martin Luther King Park	Trail Drivers Park

### Reserve Park Site Development

Anderson-Campbell Park

### New Community Centers

Southside Community Center

### Renovation of Existing Facilities

R. D. Evans Community Center  
Hillside Community Center  
Northside Community Center  
Riverside Community Center

## Roadways in Community Parks

Botanic Garden	Kellis Park
Buck Sansom Park	Lake Como Park
Carter Park	Lake Como Pool
Como Community Center Park	Marine Park
Diamond Hill Park	Northside Park
Ed. K. Collett Park	Prairie Dog Park
Far Northside Park/Tri-Ethnic CC	Rockwood Park
Greenbriar Park	Rolling Hills Park
Greenway Park	Trinity Park
Haws Athletic Center	Village Creek Park

## Park Drainage and Erosion Control

Harmon Field Park  
Cobb /Sycamore/Carter Parks Study  
Trinity Park

## **PARK PLANNING DISTRICT 5**

### LAND NEEDS

The City standard for parkland as identified in this Master Plan is 6.25 acres per 1,000 persons and is based on NRPA standards for parkland. As the calculations below reveal, the City of Fort Worth is meeting and just slightly exceeding the minimum 6.25 acre close-to-home parkland requirement per 1,000 population.

2000 Census Population - 50,134  
 $485.98 \text{ Acres}/1,000 \text{ Population} = 9.69 \text{ Acres Provided}$

Future dedication of 500 acres\* of close-to-home parkland will increase land service levels by 48 percent with nine (9) currently underserved Neighborhood Park Units (NPU's) becoming served with close-to-home parkland. These dedications will occur over the next five to ten years and are the result of residential subdivision requirements according to the *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy*. Over half of this acreage will come on-line as active park sites with constructed facilities in place upon acceptance.

\* This number includes parkland dedication requirements of the Heritage Addition, Woodland Springs and Sendera Ranch communities. Heritage Addition and Woodland Springs parkland will be dedicated within one to five years. Sendera Ranch will generate a future population over 25,000 new residents and will include internal neighborhood and community parkland. Build-out of this large planned community will occur over 10 to 15 years.

## STANDARDS-BASED FACILITY NEEDS

By applying facility-based standards to the 2000 Census population, deficiencies were analyzed, assessed and are presented in Table VII-5 below.

<b>TABLE VII-5 STANDARDS-BASED FACILITY DEFICIENCIES – PPD 5</b>						
<b>PPD 5</b>	<b>Facilities Standard Met for 2000 POP</b>	<b>CFW Standard for 1 Facility per Modified NRPA Population</b>	<b>Existing Facilities in March 2004</b>	<b>2000 POP (PPD 5)</b>	<b>2004 Need Based on 2000 POP Stats</b>	<b>Facilities Needed per 2004 Inventory</b>
Basketball Courts	NO	5,000	3	50,134	10	7
Multi-use Slabs	NO	5,000	3	50,134	10	7
Tennis Courts	NO	5,000	4	50,134	10	6
Competition Softball/Baseball	NO	12,000	1	50,134	4	3
Community Centers	NO	30,000	0	50,134	2	2
Picnic Shelters	NO	10,000	4	50,134	5	1
Competition Soccer Fields	NO	10,000	5	50,134	5	0
Hike and Bike Trails	YES	10,000	7	50,134	5	-2
Playgrounds	YES	4,000	15	50,134	13	-2
* Staff re-evaluated field classifications in August 2001 and reassigned some competition and practice field designations to more accurately reflect use.						

The results of the 2004 Needs Assessment are used for a variety of planning approaches to determine current and future needs. Most importantly, the information is used to measure the interests of the general population in each Park Planning District. Citizens in PPD 5 expressed a strong desire to have the following additional facilities in their parks: restrooms in parks 100+ acres in size, benches/seating areas and playgrounds. Service wise, they expressed an interest in having additional youth sports and senior citizen programs at their community centers along with day camps for Summer youth.

As the following list of 2004 Capital Improvement Program projects itemizes, it is highly likely that the Department will be able to address/fulfill the desires of the citizens in this PPD, as assessed from the 2004 Needs Assessment Study.

With deficiencies assessed, the Department is able to develop a plan driven by 2004 voter approved Capital Improvement Program bond funding to address needs. The following priorities are to be addressed in Park Planning District 5 over the next three to five years.

### Playground Replacements

Mesa Verde Park  
Silver Sage Park

### Reserve Park Site Development

Parkwood Hills Park  
Summerfields Chisholm Park

### New Community Centers

Far Northeast Community Center

### **SCHEDULE**

The following pages/chart takes the “Plan Recommendations” and identifies possible funding sources, dates of completion and proposed budget. This aggressive plan represents actions the Department should take over the next three to five years to address noted deficiencies and better meet the desires of Fort Worth citizens. While adjustments should be expected due to unforeseen conditions, this schedule should establish the framework for the Department’s next five years and beyond.

**FIVE YEAR PLAN**  
**CITY OF FORT WORTH PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACEMASTER PLAN**

Facility/Improvement/Recommendation	Funding Source	Year to be Completed	Proposed Budget
<b>A. High Priority Items</b>			
<b>1. Replacement or Renovation of Existing Facilities</b>			
a. Playground Replacement/Renovation (36 Sites)	• 2004 Bond Program	2007	\$ 3,226,800
<b>2. Park Road/Parking Lot Replacement in Community Parks</b>			
a. Road Reconstruction/Lot Replacement (23 Locations)	• 2004 Bond Program • 2004 CDBG	2009	\$ 5,050,000
<b>B. Medium Priority Items</b>			
<b>1. New Community Centers</b>	• 2004 Bond Program	2009	\$ 7,500,000
a. Construct new centers in areas of need (3 Locations)			
<b>2. Replace Existing Competition Athletic Fields</b>	• 2004 Bond Program	2008	\$ 1,949,000
a. Replace Deteriorated Athletic Fields (13 Sites)			
<b>3. Reserve Park Site Development (13 Sites)</b>	• 2004 Bond Program	2008	\$ 1,881,000
<b>4. Replace Existing Deteriorated Ballfield Lighting</b>	• 2004 Bond Program	2009	\$ 1,315,000
a. Replace Ballfield Lighting Systems (11 Systems)			
b. Upgrade to a Centralized Computer Lighting Control			
<b>5. Trail Bridges or Structural Renovation</b>	• 2004 Bond Program	2009	\$ 327,000
a. Replace Trail Bridges or Structural Renovations (3 Sites)			
<b>6. Park Erosion and Drainage Control</b>	• 2004 Bond Program	2008	\$ 1,000,000

Bond Program = 2004 Capital Improvement Program – CDBG = Community Development Block Grant

Facility/Improvement/Recommendation		Funding Source	Year to be Completed	Proposed Budget
<b>C. Low Priority Items</b>				
<b>1. Walk and Trail Replacement</b>				
	a. Walk and Trail Replacement (10 Sites)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2004 Bond Program</li> <li>• 2004 CDBG</li> </ul>	2009	\$ 1,429,700
<b>2. Renovation of Existing Facilities</b>				
	a. Renovating Existing Community Centers (4 Locations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2004 Bond Program</li> </ul>	2008	\$ 1,011,500
	b. New Security Lighting at Unspecified Locations			
<b>3. General Park Development</b>				
	a. Purchase Residential Properties in the Nature Center & Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2004 Bond Program</li> </ul>	2005	\$ 450,000
	b. Park Projects in each Council District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2004 CDBG</li> <li>• 2004 Model Blocks</li> </ul>		TBD*
Bond Program = 2004 Capital Improvement Program – CDBG = Community Development Block Grant				

\*On average, a total of \$500,000 in Federal funding is received per year.

## **TEN-YEAR OBJECTIVES**

The result of this planning process is a strategic plan based upon community needs that address park and open space planning, recreational program development, operations and maintenance strategies, and funding/revenue/partnership opportunities. The approach to this plan was organized to address four critical questions:

- Who should or must be served by Fort Worth's parks and programs?
- What services will they want?
- What services should be provided?
- How will resources be identified achieved, maximized and allocated?

This approach required in-depth analysis of the department's strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and vision and strategy development.

Recognizing that Fort Worth has substantial growth potential and a strong belief that parks, recreation and open space contribute to the quality of life, objectives were born out of this comprehensive planning effort. These objectives, along with specific actions, should be the guide for the next ten (10) years.

**Objective I** – Improve the diverse variety of park, recreation and open space opportunities available to all segments of the population.

### **Actions:**

- Provide accessible parks and recreations facilities and services to all residents.
- Provide additional park facilities where service levels fall below adopted standards.
- Provide additional hike and bike trails in the floodplain of the Trinity River and its tributaries through a cooperative effort with Streams and Valleys, Inc. and the Tarrant Regional Water District.
- Work with local, state and federal organizations to acquire and develop parkland.

**Objective II** – Restore and maintain the viability of the park system by renovating needed and desired existing facilities and improve maintenance and operations to ensure high quality parks and recreation facilities and services.

### **Actions:**

- Continue a phased renovation of existing playgrounds to update remaining aging playground systems and bring them into compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines.
- Continue the phased renovation of existing deteriorated walks and trails.
- Continue the phased renovation of deteriorated athletic field lighting systems.



- Continue the phased renovation and expansion of existing competition athletic fields.
- Continue renovation of deteriorated park roads and parking lots.
- Conduct bi-annual facility inventory updates to monitor the condition of existing facilities.
- Reduce maintenance requirements through advancements in technology, design and maintenance methods.

**Objective III** – Acquire and develop new park facilities to meet the park, recreation and open space needs of rapidly growing areas of the City and to address increased levels of use in certain activities.

**Actions:**

- Secure required funds to meet the obligations of the *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy* included in the City's Subdivision Ordinance in order to acquire and develop neighborhood parks for each new neighborhood unit.
- Acquire and develop community or large recreation parks in growing areas of the City.
- Expand the opportunities for walking, hiking and biking by building and expanding the Trinity Trail system and improving trail and alternative transportation systems in existing parks and in the Trinity River Open Space Corridor.
- Develop undeveloped and underdeveloped parks to add recreational opportunities that address current needs.

**Objective IV** – Preserve and enhance the City's valuable natural, historical, archeological and cultural resources.

**Actions:**

- Preserve and enhance river and creek flood plains as park and open space system trail linkages.
- Maximize access to a system of parks and trails in river, creek and drainage corridors as recreation and transportation routes.
- Provide environmental education opportunities at the City's community centers to heighten awareness of the natural resources of the City of Fort Worth.
- Identify historical, archeological and cultural resources within the existing park system.
- Develop plans for the preservation, enhancement and recognition of historical, cultural and archeological resources within the park system.

**Objective V** – Improve park safety and security.

**Actions:**

- Work with Neighborhood Police Officers and Citizens on Patrol (COPs) groups to target high crime park and open space areas for increased patrols and enforcement.
- Continue the phased renovation and installation of security lighting in parks.
- Assure compatibility of parks and park usage with surrounding neighborhoods through the *Neighborhood and Community Park Dedication Policy*.

**Objective VI** – Enhance the existing park system so that it will continue to contribute to the positive image, form and appearance of the City.

**Actions:**

- Encourage tree planting in parks, street frontage and on private property.
- Preserve scenic resources associated with the Trinity River and its tributaries.

**Objectives VII** – Improve and enhance educational and tourism facilities (special use facilities).

**Actions:**

- Continue implementation of the master plan for the improvement and expansion of the facilities at the Botanic Garden, Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge and Trinity River Corridor.
- Update the infrastructure at the Log Cabin Village.
- Update the infrastructure at the Fort Worth Water Gardens.

**Objective VIII** – Build and enhance community partnerships to deliver quality services and facilities.

**Actions:**

- Build and enhance partnerships with as many Independent School Districts in Tarrant County to pursue cooperative use of facilities in the delivery of recreation programs.
- Build and enhance partnerships with non-profit organizations to realize common goals and visions.

## **PLAN CONCLUSION**

The formulation of this plan marks a detailed review of existing conditions, desires of citizens and direction for the immediate future of the Department. This plan charts the actions needed to continue to be one of the leading Parks and Community Services Departments in the nation and better meet the ever-occurring changes in the field.

Continuous review of growth patterns and desires of park users must occur if the Fort Worth Park system is to be successful. Annual reviews of progress made toward this plan will occur through the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board. Changes in trends and needs will be reflected in the annual Business Plan of the Department.

A preliminary test of whether this ten-year plan will be successive can be determined by comparing its anticipated results to the issue questions of the Department's Strategic Plan. Those basic questions and the believed answers are as follows:

1. Who should or must be served by Fort Worth Parks and Community Services facilities and programs?

The service area of the Department is the municipal boundary of the City of Fort Worth. Recognition of the diverse geographic and demographic make up of the City is noted through the five (5) Park Planning Districts. Within that planning framework the simple answer to the questions: "Who must be served?" is all of the citizens of Fort Worth and their guests regardless of race, age, gender, income or physical ability.

2. What services will they want?

The needs assessment measured what services the residents of Fort Worth want. Those needs are addressed in the basic menu of recreation and open space activities outlined in the park classifications. The survey results show that it is clear that residents of Fort Worth want safe, well maintained "close-to-home parks".

3. What services should be provided?

A relatively equal level of parks, open space and recreation opportunities should be provided in each neighborhood based on the needs and desires of the community and as can be delivered using the basic menu of facilities listed in the park classifications.

4. How will the resources be identified, achieved, maximized and allocated?

This plan provides an inventory of existing facilities and identifies areas of deficiency. This section identifies the resources, priorities and scheduling that the Department has concluded will best maximize the allocations of available resources.

Finally, every action taken by the Department through the implementation of this plan or delivery of daily services should reflect on the mission:

*To enrich the lives of our citizens through the stewardship of our resources and the responsive provision of quality recreational opportunities and community services.*